Subj: **RE: Genealogy**
Date: 2/21/2011 9:44:27 A.M. Pacific Standard Time
From:
To:

Yes Stoney.

My 5X great grandmother was Mary Lawrence (1741-1821), older sister of your John Lawrence. Mary was married to Gen. Samuel Safford (1737-1813) and together they had Anna Safford (1771-1847) who married my 4X great grandfather, Paul Robinson (1768-1824), son of Silas Robinson (1746-1828) and grandson of Capt. Samuel Robinson (1707-67), founder of Bennington, VT.

I will enter your members in my PAF file, cousin.

In the mean time, finding more on Mary and John's forefathers has been tough for me. I have Jonathan Lawrence and Hannah Robbins coming from Norwich to Bennington in 1772.

Do you have more on the forefather's?

Thank you,

Best,
DAR

From: Stoneyjax75@aol.com [mailto:Stoneyjax75@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 20, 2011 10:17 PM
To: robinsonsDC@aol.com
Subject: Genealogy

It appears you are related to the Lawrences, I note from the subject of your Email. My 4th great Grandfather was John Lawrence, Sr. 02 Mar 1745/46 married Mary Cleveland, daughter of Josiah Cleveland. My 3rd Great Grandfather was John Lawrence, Jr. 07 Jan 1786, married Susannah Stanton, daughter of John Stanton and Mary Sherman. My 2nd Great Grandfather was Porter Jewett Lawrence, 06 Nov 1821, married Martha Baldwin, daughter of James Baldwin and Hannah Cushing. My Great Grandmother was Camilla C. Lawrence 23 Nov 1831 married John Alexander Jackson, son of Asahel Jackson and Phoebe Lawrence, thus John and Camilla were first cousins.

C

robinsonrda@aol.com.
Email 2/21/11

"Yes, Stoney.
My 5th Great Grandmother was Mary Lawrence (1741-1821) older sister of John Lawrence. Mary was married to Hon. Samuel Safford (1737-1813) and together they had Anna Safford (1771-1847) who married my 4th Great Grandfather ~~Dr.~~ Paul Robinson (1768-1824) son of Giles Robinson (1746-1828) and Grandson of Capt. Samuel Robinson (1707-67) founder of Bennington, Vt.

Going back from John and Mary seems to be a real enigma.

Jonathan Lawrence whose daughter Mary was wife of Hon. Samuel Safford, settled in the southeast part of the town. Hon. Ebenezer Wallbridge was joint proprietor with Joseph Hinsdill in the first paper-mill erected in the State, 1786, which is now, Paper-mill Village.

Hon. Samuel Safford

Dear Sir or Madam, I'm sorry I do not know your name. Below is from very reliable, "Memories of the Century" by Pastor Grove Jennings (1869) Pastor of the Old First Church in Bennington.
Click on the link (below) to view the section on my grandfather, Hon. Samuel Safford, and you can view the book in its entirety, after line. Below the link, I have copied a section on John and Mary's father, Jonathan Lawrence, whom you will also read more about under Safford bio. to confirm our discussion I have done extensive research on our family and have found that Jonathan also was father of Capt. Nathaniel Lawrence, (1743-1794) who died of an accidental kick to the head by

and it lessened our fear of the great guns - after a while I was sent, with 12 others, to lie in ambush on a knoll a little North, and watch for Tories on their way to join Baum. Presently we saw it coming towards us, who, mistaking us for Tories, came too near to escape. We disarmed them and sent them under a guard to Stark, when I was in the ~~billet~~ hillock, I espied one Indian whom I thought I could kill, and more than once I cocked my gun, but the orders were not to fire ---

P. 197 Anecdotes on Robinson's David, Samuel

Old Uncle Silas Robinson was somewhat peculiar in his way of telling a story; but his sharp voice used to give great effect to the account of his participation "I had heard, said he, that the Robinsons were all cowards; and I rather thought, if any of them was, I was the man. But somebody told me that gunpowder was good for courage; so I took about a gill of gin, and thrashed it up and when I drank that, I tell you, then I fought!"

P. 201 Capt. Robinson's Company

Chapt. 13 (Samuel Robinson, Esq. Mrs. Mercy L. Robinson)
- Death on P. 209

Chapt. 14 Immigration P 213
Harwoods

Subj: **RE: robinson history and several queries**
Date: 3/20/2011 7:20:14 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
From:
To:

Hi Bob, I will send it to your grandson now.

As for the father of my Mary and your John, I have to go with Bennington's Pastor Isaac Jennings book (1868), he was very reliable and new all the old Bennington settlers offspring and subsequently theirs etc.

"Jonathan Lawrence, whose daughter Mary was the wife of Gen. Samuel Safford, settled in the southeast part of the town. Gen. Ebenezer Walbridge was joint proprietor with Joseph Hinsdill in the first paper-mill erected in the State, 1786, where is now Paper-mill Village."

Please tell your grandson to look for the Robinson Book via email in "You Send It," momentarily. Thank you.

Best,
DAR

From: Stoneyjax75@aol.com [mailto:Stoneyjax75@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 6:53 PM
To: robinsonsdc@aol.com
Subject: robinson history and several queries

Cousin Douglas:

Sorry I haven't written re your book. You sent it power point and I do not have receiving soft ware on my computer to access it. I called my grandson, (celebrated his 30th birthday yesterday) who does have the soft ware and he suggested I forward the E-mail to him and he could do a transfer to "word." When he got to it, it was no longer available. Yesterday, we tried again and found that his power point was not the new version. His girl friend had the new power point which you used and when we set it up to retrieve the old Email, it told us that the message was no longer available. Of course my grandson apologized for not getting to it in good time. I would still appreciate receiving that material. I thought we might avoid confusion if you sent the material directly to him, he has access to the power point you used where he teaches. Otherwise, he said that if you want to try the first time again, he says, "save as -- Power Point 97-2003" which he can access. His Email address is:

I have spent some time in going over some of the material I have on the Jonathan query. I haven't found the Family Search group very valuable. For one thing, the documentation of the material researched is not indicated, and it presents whatever information they have, regardless of its voracity.

First, I mentioned that John Lawrence (1746) had been given two possible fathers. One was Jonathan Lawrence, who married Hannah Robbins, the other was Samuel Lawrence (1710), Norwich.
The Family Group Record from Salt Lake, Ancestral File v4.19, lists 12 children. Among the 12 is Mary, born 8 Apr 1741, Norwich, New London, Ct.; John, born 19 Feb 1746, Norwich, Ct.and Josiah, born 18 Aug 1734. I have verified and proved to my satisfaction that Josiah was the son of Samuel (Isaac 3, Isaac 2, John 1).
However, John's birthdate of 19 Feb is the old style and if the 11 day difference is added to Feb. 19, we arrive at Mar. 2, 1746, the true date of John's birth. It seems almost impossible that two John Lawrences,both in Norwich, would be born on the same day from two different fathers. However, the

Subj: RE: robinson history and several queries
Date: 3/20/2011 7:20:14 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
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Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 6:53 PM
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The Family Group Record from Salt Lake Ancestral File v4.19, lists 12 children. Among the 12 is Mary, born 5 Apr 1744, Norwich, New London, Ct.; John, born 19 Feb 1746, Norwich, Ct. and Josiah, born 13 Aug 1734. I have verified and proved to my satisfaction that Josiah was the son of Samuel (Isaac 3, Isaac 2, John 1).
However, John's birthdate of 19 Feb is the old style and if the 11 day difference is added to Feb. 19, we arrive at Mar. 2, 1746, the true date of John's birth. It seems almost impossible that two John Lawrences both in Norwich, would be born on the same day from two different fathers. However, the

Feb. 19th John is reported to have died in Westford, Vermont in 1839, adding some sense to the theory of two John's. Since I have proof that our John moved to Bennington as a young man and spent his remaining years in Bennington, either the Family Group Record is incorrect or there were 2 John Lawrences born on the same day in Norwich. However, Mary,is a different story. Again, they cite Mary as a daughter of Samuel, birthdate is identical to our Mary. Both report that Mary died 22 Oct 1821 in Bennington, Vt. This coincidence is clearly not a possibility!

In checking the same ancestral file for Jonathan Lawrence and Elizabeth Buttrich, four children are listed: Jacob ~1732, Ct., Experience, b. 1728, Samuel, b. 1730 and Josiah b. 18 Aug 1734, Norwich, and d. 11 Apr. 1802. That Josiah was definitely a son of Samuel Lawrence. Perhaps there was a Josiah born to Jonathan and Elizabeth, but clearly NOT this one.

I did find a Deborah Lawrence in the family of Samuel (1710) and Mary Lawrence, born 23 Jan 1747, Norwich, Ct.

You can see why I am hesitant to place my information in the hands of the Salt Lake Group. One other problem occurs when they list an Experience Lawrence as a daughter of Samuel and Mary Lawrence. The Last Will and Testament of Major Eleazer Lawrence identifies Experience Lawrence as one of his heirs. I'm afraid these situations create much doubt in the validity of perhaps good and honest reporting scattered among incorrect data.

Finally, the situation above led me to the DNA testing model to determine if Samuel might be the father of our John. Using the one-name Study, Lawrence, I was able to compare a known direct-line descent of Samuel Lawrence, with a Lawrence who I had proved was in my direct line. I gathered DNA samples from the two candidates through the One Name Study analysis at a major center for study of DNA. The results showed that our direct line candidate was NOT a descendant of Samuel Lawrence. It seems like science may be our only way to finally check the validity of heredity through Y chromosome analyses.

Keep on a rollin'

Cousin Bob

Feb. 19th John is reported to have died in Westford, Vermont in 1839, adding some sense to the theory of two John's. Since I have proof that our John moved to Bennington as a young man and spent his remaining years in Bennington, either the Family Group Record is incorrect or there were 2 John Lawrences born on the same day in Norwich. However, Mary is a different story. Again, they cite Mary as a daughter of Samuel, but this is identical to our Mary. Both report that Mary died 22 Oct 1821 in Bennington, Vt. This coincidence is clearly not a possibility!

In checking the same ancestral site for Jonathan Lawrence and Elizabeth Gulick, four children are listed: Jacob –1732, Ci., Experience, b. 1728, Samuel, b. 1730 and Josiah b. 16 Aug 1734, Norwich, and d. 11 Apr. 1802. That Josiah was definitely a son of Samuel Lawrence. Perhaps there was a Josiah born to Jonathan and Elizabeth, but clearly NOT this one.

I did find a Deborah Lawrence in the family of Samuel (1710) and Mary Lawrence, born 23 Jan 1747, Norwich, Ct.

You can see why I am hesitant to place my information in the hands of the Salt Lake Group. One other problem occurs when they list an Experience Lawrence as a daughter of Samuel and Mary Lawrence. The Last Will and Testament of Major Eleazer Lawrence identifies Experience Lawrence as one of his heirs. I'm afraid these situations create much doubt in the validity of perhaps good and honest reported scattered among incorrect data.

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Keep on a roll!

Cousin Bob

Greetings Pat! Haven't heard from our "northern Relatives" lately so, anything new?

I've been trying to finish up on the "Lawrences" before the first of the year. At 85, not a lot of time left to dig in deep. I did uncover some information which I have not followed up on, regarding John Lawrence (1746) parenthood. As you know, it is 70% certain that John descends from the first John Lawrence, arriving in America in 1635 and settled in Watertown then Groton, Massachusetts. There is quite a bit of disagreement as to which son of the original John(b. 1609, England) is part of the direct line to John (1746). The two in question are Isaac Lawrence b.1658, who married Abigail Bellows, and Peleg Lawrence b. 1646, who married Elizabeth Morse.

Isaac'a Line	Peleg's Line
Isaac Lawrence, Jr.	Jonathan Lawrence (1679)
Samuel Lawrence, (1710)	Jonathan Lawrence (1712)
Josiah Lawrence, Sr. (1734)	John Lawrence, Sr. (1746)
Diah Lawrence	John Lawrence, Jr. (1786)
Henry Lawrence (1826)	Luman Lawrence (1826)

These lines go on down to two of the three currently living and using the surname Lawrence

Philip Drake Lawrence (1919)	John D. Lawrence (1939)

I had high hopes that those two persons had equivalent markings on their Y-Chromosome, DNA testing. As it turned out, contrasting the two, there was much too much distance in comparing 37 markers of each to merit a definitive relationship. Since I was less convinced of the John D. line, I contrasted Samuel's representative descendant, Philip, to all other DNA testing done of the Lawrence surname by the lab I use in Arizona. Philip's DNA was closer to several others in the pool. I think I sent you that report.

The ugly spectrum of "no matches" to anyone reared it's ugly head! But, hope springs eternal and maybe aditional evidence will popup.

Here are some of my current conclusions:

1. The Norwich (current) records lists our John (1746) as one of the sons of Samuel Lawrence (1710) b. 19 Feb 1745/46. Other son's listed were Josiah 17361736, Jonathan, 1736 Samuel, 1738

   Earlier Norwich records did not show a "John", son of Samuel.

Chart Additions
L-1
Add under Wm Chas. Smith
1. Aiken Kingsley Smith
n.

Subj: **RE: Genealogy Stuff**
Date: 3/1/2011 3:04:51 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
From:
To:

Thank you Robert.

I wonder where your grandfather Asahel Hyde Jackson got his name?

In my family was a Asahel Hyde (1764-1812) born at Norwich, CT d. at Georgia, VT. He was the son of Capt Jacob Hyde (1730-1815) who was a soldier in the Rev. and removed the family to Bennington, VT in the 1780's. Asahel Hyde married Esther Robinson (1771-1849) in Bennington. Ester was the daughter of my uncle Col. Samuel Robinson (1738-1813), who commanded at the Battle of Bennington, was overseer of the Tories and was the first Justice of the Peace in Bennington.

Best,
DAR

From: Stoneyjax75@aol.com [mailto:Stoneyjax75@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 12:36 PM
To: robinsonsdc@aol.com
Subject: Genealogy Stuff

Cousin Doug: My company left yesterday (my sister Joan and her husband Robert Ripple) for home in Colorado so, with the washing partially done, I can get back to important matters.

You requested some information on my Lawrence line. As I believe I mentioned earlier, Porter Jewett Lawrence and Phoebe Sherman Lawrence were brother and sister. Their children, first cousins, married.

Porter Jewett Lawrence b. 06 Nov. 1821, Cortland, New York
d. 20 May 1890, Winnebago, Winnebago, Illinois
m. Martha Melvina Baldwin, daughter of James Baldwin and Hannah Cushing, on 01 Jan 1843. She was born 14 May 1818 and died 11 Apr. 1907 in Winnebago.
One child.

Camilla Carferilla Lawrence b. 23 Nov 1845
d. 17 May 1926, Rockford, Illinois
m. John Alexander Jackson, son of Asahel Hyde Jackson and Phoebe Sherman Lawrence, 17 Nov 1864
3 children:

Orin Porter Jackson b. 29 Jan 1869, Winnebago, Illinois
d. 28 Aug 1924, Mitchell, South Dakota
m. Marie DeBuhr on 06 Apr 1892, Winnebago, Illinois, daughter of John DeBuhr and Gertrude Blumenfeld. Marie was born 10 Nov 1869 and died 11 Sep 1959 in San Jose, California
3 children

Subj: RE: Genealogy Stuff
Date: 3/7/2011 3:04:21 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
From:
To:

From: Stoneyjax75@aol.com [mailto:Stoneyjax75@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 12:36 PM
To: robinsonsdc@aol.com
Subject: Genealogy Stuff

Cousin Doug: My company left yesterday (my sister Joan and her husband Roden Ripple) for home in Colorado so, with the washing partially done, I can get back to important matters.

You requested some information on my Lawrence line. As I believe I mentioned earlier, Peter Jewell Lawrence and Phoebe Sherman Lawrence were brother and sister. Their children, first cousins married.

Peter Jewell Lawrence b. 08 Nov 1821, Cortland, New York
d. 20 May 1890, Winnebago, Winnebago, Illinois
m. Martha Melvina Baldwin, daughter of James Baldwin and Hannah Cushing,
on 01 Jan 1843. She was born 14 May 1818 and died 11 Apr. 1907 in
Winnebago.
One child.

Camilla Cantrella Lawrence b. 23 Nov 1846
d. 17 May 1929, Rockford, Illinois
m. John Alexander Jackson, son of Asahel Hyde Jackson and Phoebe
Sherman Lawrence, 17 Nov 1864
3 children:

Olin Peter Jackson b. 29 Jan 1866, Winnebago, Illinois
d. 28 Aug 1924, Mitchell, South Dakota
m. Marie DeBuhr on 08 Apr 1892, Winnebago, Illinois, daughter of
John DeBuhr and Gertrude Blumenfeld. Marie was born 10 Nov 1869
and died 11 Sep 1959 in San Jose, California
3 children

Wednesday, January 25, 2012 America Online: Stoneyjax75

Olin DeBuhr Jackson b. 12 Aug 1893 Winnebago, Illinois
d. 25 Jun 1972, Minneapolis, Minnesota
m. Edna Anna Hanson on 05 Apr 1919 in Parker, South Dakota
She was the daughter of Jacob Hanson and Emma Nelson.
born on 18 Mar 1895, Lamberton, MN. and died 17 Jul 1975
in Minneapolis, MN.
(7 children)

Robert Loring Jackson b. 08 Jun 1926, Mitchell, South Dakota
d.
m1. Helen Marion Baker on 02 Jun 1951 in St. Paul, MN
daughter of William R. C. Baker and Sadie Grow.
She was born 22 Oct 1930, Duluth, Minnesota.
m2. Elizabeth Denise Koteski on 30 May 1992 in
Minneapolis, MN. She was the daughter of Frederick
Ruetten and Louise Schutz of Plain, Wisconsin
She was born 26 Apr 1955, Baraboo, Wisconsin

Charles Olin Jackson b. 06 Oct 1954, Baumholder, Germany
m1 Jacalyn Lessman on 14 Dec 1954, Minneapolis
m2. Debra Lee Hunt on 08 Apr 2000.
Children:
Cari Lee Jackson b. 08 Jan 1977, Minneapolis, MN.
Robert Charles Jackson b. 19 Mar 1981. Minneapolis, MN
Stephanie Lyn Jackson b. 28 Mar 1979, Minneapolis, MN.
m. Jason Sneller
Jonathan Jackson b. 15 Sep 1995, Minneapolis, MN. (adopted)

Catherine Lynne Jackson b. 09 Jan 1957, Minnneapolis, MN
m. Michael McCarty 23 Jun 1979
Jeremy McCarty b. 12 Jul 1990, Denver, CO.

Cynthia Helen Jackson b. 19 Aug 1960, Minneapolis, MN.
m. Sam Lewis Cocke, Jr.
Paris Baker Cocke, b. 20 Aug 1994, New Orleans, LA.

The indentations, staring with Porter Lawrence, 2nd great grandfather, traces direct lines through my children and grandchildren. Of course you may not wish to go to the present day and feel free to remove extraneous information as you see fit. I should list, however, my own siblings- Children of Olin and Edna Jackson:

1. Doris Edna Jackson, b. 02 Mr 1920, Hudson, South Dakota
d. 27 Nov 2010, Racine, WI.
m. William Betzler Spetch
2. Vivian Ruth Jackson, b. 26 Oct 1921, Hudson, South Dakota
m. Emery Louis Skoog
3. Orlin Burton Jackson, b. 02 Oct 1923, Winnebago, Illinois
d. 11 Nov. 1932, Brookings, South Dakota
4. Joan Beth Jackson, b. 05 Mar. 1931, Brookings, South Dakota
m. Robert C. Ripple
5. Jerald Hugh Jackson, b. 17 May 1933, Brookings, South Dakota
m. Jane Shirk
6. Roger Olin Jackson, b. 17 Mar 1937, Brookings, South Dakota
d. 26 Sep 1995, Minneapolis, MN.
m. Patricia Schiltz

2nd GREAT GRANDMOTHER, PHOEBE SHERMAN LAWRENCE

b. 22 Feb 1809, Bennington, Vermont
d. 05 Feb 1899, Fairmont, Nebraska

m. Asahel Hyde Jackson, b. 29 Jul 1802, (New Concord, East Chatham, Columbia, N.Y.)
d. 04 May 1862, Winnebago, Illinois

John Alexander Jackson (See previous listing)

Additional children of Phoebe Sherman Lawrence

Isaac Mills Jackson b. 27 Dec 1833 Skaneateles, New York
d. 23 Mar 1919, Marcus, Iowa
m. Clara C. Straw

Philetus Newcomb Jackson b. 11 Feb. 1831, Skaneateles, New York
d. 15 Aug 1835

Russell Lawrence Jackson b. 27 Mar 1838, Bath, Ohio
d. 23 Mar 1859

Susan Jane Jackson, b. 23 Nov 1840, Bath, Ohio
d. 02 Jun 1900, Cleveland, Ohio
m. William Parsons

Phoebe Eliza Jackson, b. 05 Jul 1845, Bath, Ohio
d. 18 Jan 1908, Fairmont, Nebraska
m.William H. Searles

Frederick Augustus Jackson, b. 30 Mar 1850, Cleveland, Ohio
` d. 15 Sep 1861

George Washington Jackson, b. 28 Nov 1852, Cleveland, Ohio
d.
m. Fannie Savage

I do have the descendants of each of these children of Phoebe's if you have interest in that. Just let me know!

Cousin Bob Jackson

m. Asahel Hyde Jackson, b. 29 Jul 1802, (New Concord, East Charlemon, Columbia, N.Y.)
d. 04 May 1862, Winnebago, Illinois

John Alexander Jackson (See previous listing)

Additional children of Phoebe Sherman Lawrence

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d. 23 Mar 1919, Marcus, Iowa
m. Clara C. Straw

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d. 15 Aug 1835

Russell Lawrence Jackson b. 27 Mar 1838, Bath, Ohio
d. 23 Mar 1859

Susan Jane Jackson, b. 23 Nov 1840, Bath, Ohio
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m. Fannie Savage

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Cousin Bob Jackson

Bennington, Vermont information

The deeds to the land of John Lawrence (1746) are on file in Town Records, Book 39, pp. 610-612; Book 40, pp 414. John originally registered the land 02 May 1781 as found in Book 3, pp 67.

The town of Bennington was granted by Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire in 1749. Bennington was the first township granted in what is now the State of Vermont. The property was composed of 64 rights of 320 acres each. numbering started in the Southwest corner with #1, and proceeded east. Therefore, along the bottom (South) rank of properties, the numbers are 1-8. Joe Parks, Librarian at the Bennington Museum provided the following: "The part marked *Staaton von Santvoord*, (Southwest corner) should be numbered "1" but its number is "8." This was caused by the Easterly tier being all mountainside. So the Easterly tier was moved over to the West side. Thus the numbering at the bottom rank is 8,1,2,3,4,5,6,7, and the next above that numbered 16,9,10,11,12,13,14,15, and so on. (See the rough copy of the 1790 map of Bennington, Vermont appended.

John Lawrence's property was the Southwest ¼ of Lot 6. The Southeast corner was owned by Samuel Smith. Joseph Palmer's property abutted John Lawrence's on the West side. The 320 acres in Section 7 was originally granted to Edward Longstaff. That property was jointly owned for many years by the sons of Captain Samuel Robinson and was known as the Robinson woods. The first permanent settler on the right was Jeremiah Granger who, in 1790, purchased from Moses Robinson, 60 acres in the Northwest corner.

The map of 1790 clearly identifies names and properties of Vermonters closely associated with John and Mary Lawrence. Captain Robinson headed the militia in which John Lawrence served during the Revolutionary War. John and Mary's eldest daughter Ruth, married Seth Palmer, son of Joseph Palmer. Elijah Fay's son, Elijah Junior married Lydia Lawrence, daughter of John and Mary. It is also interesting to note that John's grandson, Porter Lawrence was given the middle name of Jewett, honoring neighbor Thomas Jewett. Section 23, to the Northeast, is the section owned by Josiah Lawrence who, by some genealogists claim to be John Lawrence's brother. Originally, Josiah Lawrence owned the property purchased by Joseph Palmer, giving further credence to the brotherhood of the two. (Further discussion of this claim is found the Lawrence DNA research Report, 2006-7).

It is certain that each of the property owners in Bennington Township had many interesting tales regarding lines of demarcation and property transfers which cannot be explored here. Several historically interesting facts surround the three witnesses to John Lawrence's will:

Jonathan Robinson, son of Captain Samuel Robinson, was a leading lawyer in the county, served as Supreme Court Justice, and was a United States Senator during James Madison's term, 1807 – 1815.

The deeds to the land of John Lawrence (1716) are on file in Town Records, Book 22, pp. 510-512; Book 40, pp. 414; John originally registered the land 02 May 1761 as found in Book 1, pp. 67.

The town of Bennington was granted by Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire in 1749. Bennington was the first township granted in what is now the State of Vermont. The property was commonly of 64 rights of 320 acres each numbering started in the Southwest corner with #1, and proceeded east. Therefore, along the bottom (South) rank of properties, the numbers are 1-8 (on Farts). Drawings in the Bennington Museum provided the following: The rear ranges drawing was numbered (Southwest corner) should be numbered "1" but its number is "8". This was caused by the Estate's far being in mountainous. So the Estate's far was moved over to the West side. This the numbering of the bottom rank is 8, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and the rear above that numbered is 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and so on. Over the rough copy of the 1770 map of Bennington, Vermont appeared:

John Lawrence's property was the Southwest 1/4 of Lot 6. The Southeast corner was owned by Samuel Smith. Joseph Palmer's property adjoined John Lawrence's on the West side. The 320 acres in Section 7 was originally granted to Edward Livingston. This property was jointly owned for many years by the sons of Captain Samuel Robinson and was known as the Robinson woods. The first permanent settlers on the right were Jeremiah Harper who, in 1770, purchased from Moses Robinson, 60 acres in the Northwest corner.

The map of 1770 clearly identifies names and properties of Vermonters closely associated with John and Mary Lawrence. Captain Robinson headed the militia in which John Lawrence served during the Revolutionary War. John and Mary's oldest daughter Ruth, married Seth Palmer, son of Joseph Palmer. Elijah Lawrence, son, Elijah Junior married Lydia Lawrence, daughter of John and Mary. It is also interesting to note that John's grandson, Porter Lawrence was given the middle name of Jewett, born living neighbor Thomas Jewett. Section 23, to the Northwest, is the section owned by Joseph Lawrence who, by some genealogists, claim to be John Lawrence's brother. Originally, Joseph Lawrence owned the property purchased by Joseph Palmer, giving further evidence to the Brand book of the town. (Further discussion of this claim is found the Lawrence/Jewett Research, 2000-01).

It is certain that each of the property owners in Bennington Township and many interesting tales regarding lines of occupation and property transfers exist. It cannot be explored here. Search historically interesting facts surrounding the three witnesses to John Lawrence's will.

Jeremiah Robinson, son of Captain Samuel Robinson, was a leading lawyer in the county, served as Supreme Court Justice, and was a United States Senator during James Monroe's term, 1807 – 1815.

Subj: **Lawrence-Cleveland connection**
Date: 8/21/2008 6:25:50 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
From: mariah1@earthlink.net
To: Stoneyjax75@aol.com

Hello Cousin Bob:

Well, I've finally had a few minutes to sit down and try to make some sense of the bits of research I did when I was back east in late May, early June. Mom and I did go to the Canterbury Town Hall as promised and I've attached all that I could find on the Cleveland/Lawrence family. I hope this helps fill in some holes or gives you some new leads.

I also found some interesting things when I was in Sandwich doing more research on the Skiff family (Jane A. Skiff married Milo Carlos Lawrence up on Monkton Ridge, you remember.) Her ancestor was one of the original founders of Sandwich, Mass. Anyhow, as I was looking through old books in the library, I found information on a John Lawrence and wonder if he might be the immigrant ancestor. What do you make of this?

Mom now has the Milo Carlos Lawrence- Jane A. Skiff family bible. I can't believe that I finally got that...and how did it get from Monkton to Oklahoma to someone who had no connection with the family and then back to me? jeffrey said I was the only person in the whole wide world who asked about that in the 2 years he had it posted on ancestry.com!

Hope all is well with you. Pat

From: Stoneyjax75@aol.com [mailto:Stoneyjax75@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 10:53 AM
To: robinsonsdc@aol.com
Subject: Re: Genealogy

Thank you so much for that info.!!! The Safford name and, of course the Robinson name are both familiar to me. I have been in contact with Lawrence descendants for a long time now. One of my contacts spent 35 years in researching the Archives in Washington and the Library of Congress while her husband was working for the Navy. Naturally she had been to the "stamping grounds" of Bennington amongst her travels. Unfortunately, she must be over 93 by now and I haven't had contact for several years. I treasure the copy of the map showing the property divisions in early Bennington and much of the genealogical data from that time.

I face the same problem as you face- that is finding the father and mother of John (1745/46) I have examined the data I have available on Jonathan Lawrence and Hannah Robbins and that appears in a number of genealogies but no proof is offered. In fact, there is evidence to suggest that they were not the parents (I can send you stuff on that phase if you are interested.) Another "suggestion" has been that John was the son of Samuel Lawrence. In listing Samuel's children, there is a gap of several years where a "John" could fit. If you are interested, I would be delighted to send you a copy of a DNA study I completed several years ago which essentially eliminated Samuel as being John and Mary's father. It seems to be true that all of the Lawrences which were located in New England originate with John Lawrence (1609) who settled in Watertown, MA.

Finding out that John had a sister is great news!! My write up on John includes no information on his growing up years until his marriage to Mary Cleveland in Canterbury, CT. From some notes I have on his grandson, Samuel Lawrence, he knew of no brothers or sisters of John and I have not found any until you came along! Thanks for that.

I'm not a big computer person so I don't try to send attachments but if you want any of my materials, I would be glad to mail them to you USPS at no cost to you. I would need to have your mailing address to do that.

Thanks so much for the info on Mary, I will add that immediately.

from "Robinson"

Mary "Polly" Merrill was originally Polly Robinson, daughter of Jonathan and Mary Robinson. Polly married Oramsus Merrill, a member of congress when Henry Clay was Speaker of the House. (1811-1820; 1823-1925)

Samuel Fay, brother of Elijah Fay whose son married Lydia Lawrence.

Other obituaries:

Vermont Gazette, 08 Nov 1825: "In this town…aged 79 years…one of the first settlers…a genuine Whig Party member…plain and unassuming in his manners…steady and undeviating in his principles… an honest man." Henry Clay Day (1844-1919) handwritten *INDEX OF HIS HISTROICAL WRITINGS AND MEMORANDA" Bennington Museum, Bennington, Vermont.*

Harwood Diaries: "Sunday, 28 Feb 1836. The death of the late Mr. John Lawrence was announced, age 89 years." This was a church meeting, the Rev. Ed. W. Hooker was to solemnize a wedding that evening."

Harwood Diaries: John Lawrence bought land in 1770, said purchase was witnessed by Samuel Safford and Samuel Montague.

Proprietor's Book Entry, A-1, through 1786 page 53:

April 17, 1771: order # 8. "Chose John Lawrence, Sealer of Leather"
Order #14. "Voted that each man shall work four days at highway's this year."

Check the following in the publication:

History of Macomb County, Michigan- PP 849-850
County Library
16480 Hall Road
Clinton Twp. Mi. 48038
Carol Souchack, reference Librarian

22 Dec 1805 E. W. Lawrence, son of Benjamin Lawrence (1780-1870) and Louisa Elliott (1787 – 1870)b

Mister Lawrence claims descent from John and Mary Townley Lawrence, who arrived in America in 1713, Massachusetts port. They had one son, Jonathan. E.W. married in January 1828 to Julia E. Russell (1808). They raised four children: Cornelius, Henry M., Benjamin S., and Helen E. They came to Michigan in the spring of 1838, settled in Pontiac, Oakland in the Fall of 1849. Moved to Rochester for six years. For four years he served as postmaster under James J. Polk's administration. In 1850, he moved to Utica, Michigan and in 1855, removed to California. E.W. spent 3 years in the mines with pick and shovel, after which he traveled two years with his son, then 15 years old, visiting Oregon, Washington Territory, New Mexico and the Sandwich Islands, returning home in 1860. In 1861 he volunteered as a private in the rebellion. Saw active service 4 years and commissioned first Lt. and served 3 years. Honorably

THE

VERMONT

HISTORICAL GAZETTEER:

A Magnum,

EMBRACING

A HISTORY OF EACH TOWN,

CIVIL, ECCLESIASTICAL, BIOGRAPHICAL AND MILITARY

AMOS HARRIS HULL,

IN THREE VOLUMES.

1868

RUTH A. HOEPER
7523 GRAND PARKWAY
WAUWATOSA, WI 53213-3566

"The Vermont Historical Gazeeteer" by Abby M. Hemenway, pub. 1868 Vol I.

almost chilled through. The body of the child was found the next morning, tangled in the fence, about half a mile from where the house started.

The damage done by this sad occurrence cannot be correctly estimated at present. It cannot be less than $50,000. Mr. Esty loses largely; he must have been damaged to the amount of $15,000. E. M Welling, Hawks, Loomis & Co., P. L. Robinson, Jones & Richardson (who lose a woolen factory and its contents,) P. E. Ball, Drs. Bruce and Ranny, Mrs. Christie, Hiram McIntyre, Rufus Bangs, B. F. Fay, George Clearwater, Charles Cameron, Geo. Harwood, Wm. Dutcher, Ansel Kane and John V. Colvin, are among the principal losers.

The loss to the town by the destruction of bridges, roads, &c., is large. The railroad company also lose a considerable amount.

There is not a water privilege now available in North Bennington. All the dams are gone, and the wheels, factories and shops that are standing are filled with mud and water, and are deserted.

Fragments of machinery, broken furniture, tattered remnants of clothing, and articles of every description indiscriminately piled together, mark the course of this disastrous inundation through one of the most thriving villages in the State.

Mr. Welling's stone grist mill was submerged in part, its rooms filled and their contents, grain, flour, &c., buried in sand and water. Jones & Richardson's Woolen Factory is parted and ruined, its machinery gone, no one knows where, and the stock on hand gone after the machinery. Bangs' Square shop has vanished entirely. Ball's Blacksmith shop ditto. Jones' Welling's, and Esty's dams are gone, and the embankments so injured as to retard the progress of re-building.

The water entered the counting room on the sales room floor of Hawks, Loomis & Co.'s store, hurled a safe weighing 4 or 500 lbs., through the stout pannelling of an enclosed desk, and carried it to the opposite side of the room. The water also entered the counting-room of P. L. Robinson, Esq., on the same floor, saturated his books, soaked his papers, ravaged his safe, and left its filthy insignia four or five feet from the floor on the ceiling of the room. Drs. Bruce & Ranney suffered severely. The mass of water which entered their residence, broke through the floor, precipitated their furniture, a valuable parlor organ, and their household fixtures into the cellar beneath.

BENNINGTON, PRIOR TO THE REVOLUTION.

Bennington was the first town that was settled in Vermont west of the Green Mountain, and its charter is the oldest in the state. The grant was made by Benning Wentworth, his majesty's governor of New Hampshire, and appears to have been ordered by advice of his council, January 3, 1749. It was of a township 6 miles square, lying 6 miles north of the Massachusetts province line, and 20 miles east of Hudson's river, divided into 64 shares, and was to be called Bennington, after the baptismal name of the Governor. In conformity to the governor's order it was surveyed in November, 1749, and the charter was issued the March following, bearing the before mentioned date of the original grant. The township is described in the charter according to the survey in the following words, viz:

"Beginning at a crotched hemlock tree marked W. W. six miles due north, or at a right angle from said province line, said angle commencing at a white oak tree in said line marked M. ‡ ‡ O. I. T., which tree is 24 miles east from Hudson's river, allowing one chain in thirty for swag, (which allowance is made through the whole following survey) and from said hemlock tree west ten degrees north four miles to a stake and stones, and from said stake and stones north ten degrees east six miles to a stake and stones; and from thence east ten degrees south six miles to a stake and stones, and from thence south ten degrees west six miles to a stake and stones, and from thence west ten degrees north two miles to the hemlock before mentioned."

It is deemed proper to be thus particular in giving the charter position of the town, in order to contradict a statement put forth under the direction of the New York authorities in a narrative of the proceedings of the settlers under New Hampshire, published in 1773, and within a few years past, copied into one of the news papers in this state, in which it is declared that the charter was of a township 24 miles east of Hudson river, and that the inhabitants, finding it upon a mountain, "by no better authority than a vote of their town meeting presumed to extend it westward within 17 instead of 24 miles from that river." It may be added that the average distance of the west line of the town from the Hudson is not less than 20 miles, though the N. W. corner is something short of that distance.

Of the 64 shares into which the town was divided, only two were for public purposes, viz: one for schools and one for the first settled minister. Benning Wentworth was named as the grantee of two shares, and the remaining sixty were to that number of different individuals. Immediately after the grants the proprietors met at Portsmouth, where most of them resided, and made a plan of the township, by which after laying out 64 lots of one acre for each proprietor, near the centre of the town, in conformity with a provision in the charter, they divided the residue into 64 parts, which they

distributed among themselves by lot. Under this division and distribution the different rights were conveyed and have since been held.

The charter was issued in the name of the king, he being the party purporting to make the grant, and there was reserved to him "all the white and other pine trees fit for masting our royal Navy;" and also a yearly rent for the first ten years of one ear of corn if demanded, and after the expiration of that time a rent of one shilling proclamation money for every 100 acres, payable at the council chamber at Portsmouth, on the 23d of December annually.

The charter also conferred on the future inhabitants of the township the powers and authority belonging to New Hampshire corporation towns, and appointed the last Wednesday of March in each year as the day for forever holding their meetings for the choice of town officers. It may be here stated that this requirement of the charter was faithfully and uniformly observed until within a few years past. It has latterly been found more convenient to hold the meetings on an earlier day in the month, and as there is now no power but the state government to complain of the violation of the charter, it does not seem probable that the town is in any great danger of losing its corporate privileges by the change.

No attempt appears to have been made to settle the town until after the close of the French war, which terminated by the conquest of Canada in 1760. Previous to that time the whole territory comprising the present state of Vermont was substantially an uncultivated wilderness. The men of the New England provinces, who had participated largely in that war, had frequently passed over it, in their expeditions against the French and Indians, and becoming well acquainted with its soil, had imbibed a strong desire to settle upon it. And no sooner was the territory opened for safe occupation by the favorable result of that war, than the tide of emigration set strongly towards it from the New England provinces.

Tradition informs us that the selection of Bennington for the first settlement on the west side of the mountain was in this wise. Samuel Robinson of Hardwick, Mass., had served during several campaigns as Captain in the army in the French war. His returning route from Lake George lay up the Hoosick to Williamstown, thence across the mountain to the Connecticut. But on one occasion mistaking one of the branches of the Hoosick for the main stream, he, and a few companions, found themselves approaching the mountain without passing the Hoosick Forts. They had in fact, ascended the Walloomsack instead of the Hoosick, and were within the limits of Bennington, where they encamped over night, and the next morning pursued their way southerly to Williamstown. Capt. Robinson being much pleased with the land he had thus accidentally passed over, returned home with a determination to begin a settlement upon it. He repaired to New Hampshire and made purchases of a considerable portion of the township rights, and sought among his friends and acquaintances for associate emigrants to the new country.

The settlement was commenced in the spring of 1761. The most advanced posts at this time in New England, west of the Green Mountains, were two small forts called East and West Hoosick, one situated about two miles west of the present village of North Adams, and the other near the site of the Colleges in Williamstown. They had for a few years given partial protection to some families in their immediate neighborhood, but during the war, had afforded insufficient security against the French and Indians, to induce extensive settlements. There were, also, to the west of Bennington, along the banks of the Hoosick, some Dutch families, a few of which had seated themselves as far up the river as Pownal.

The first emigration to the town consisted of the families of Peter Harwood, Ebenezer Harwood, Leonard Robinson, and Samuel Robinson, Jr., of Hardwick, Mass., and of Samuel Pratt and Timothy Pratt from Amherst. The party including women and children numbered twenty-two. They came on horse back across the mountain by the Hoosick forts and through Pownal, bringing on their horses all their household goods, and arrived in town June 18, 1761. The first child born in town was Benjamin, son of Peter Harwood, January 12, 1762, who became a very worthy and intelligent citizen, and died January 22, 1851, aged 89. During the summer and fall of 1761, other families to the number of twenty or thirty, came into town, among whom were those of Samuel Robinson, Senior, James Breakenridge, John Fassett, Ebenezer Wood, Elisha Field, Samuel and Oliver Scott, Joseph Safford, John Smith, Joseph Wickwire, Samuel Montague, Samuel Atwood, John Burnham and Benajah Rood. The settlers were all purchasers under the original grantee, some of such grantees having ever re-

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"The Vermont Historical Gazeeteer" by Abby M. Hemenway, pub. 1868

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moved to the town. There is some difficulty in ascertaining the precise time when many other of the early and permanent settlers came to the town.

In October, 1764, a military company was formed in the town, of which an authentic roll has been found among the papers of the late Capt. Elijah Dewey, by his grandson, E. D. Hubbell, Esq. It is as follows, viz:

"Muster Roll of the first company of Militia in the town of Bennington, organized October 24, 1764:

OFFICERS.

John Fassett, Captain.
James Breakenridge, Lieutenant.
Elisha Field, Ensign.

WARRANT OFFICERS.

Leonard Robinson, 1st Sergent.
Samuel Safford, 2d do
Ebenezer Wood, 3d do
Henry Walbridge, 4th do

RANK AND FILE.

Benj. Whipple, 1st Corporal.
John Wood, 2d do
Samuel Pratt, 3d do
Peter Harwood, 4th do

MUSIC, Benajah Story, Drummer.

MILITARY COMPANY, 1764.

Timothy Abbott,	Abm. Newton,
John Armstrong,	George Pengry,
Libbeus Armstrong,	Timothy Pratt,
Samuel Atwood,	Silas Robinson,
John Burnham,	Moses Robinson,
W. M. Burnham,	Joseph Richardson,
John Burnham, jr	Daniel Rood,
David Barnard,	Benajah Rood,
Levi Castle,	David Safford,
Nathan Clark,	Joseph Safford,
Nathan Clark, jr.	Jonathan Scott,
Asa Clark,	Matthew Scott,
Nathan Clark, 3d,	Moses Scott,
Isaac Clark,	Oliver Scott,
Cornelius Cady,	Phinehas Scott,
Johnson Cleveland,	Samuel Scott,
Robert Cochran,	John Smith,
Samuel Cutler,	Daniel Scott,
Isaac Davis,	John Smith, jr
Elijah Dewey,	Joseph Smith,
Enoch Eastman,	Thos. Smith,
David Fassett,	Elijah Story,
John Fassett, 2d,	Thos. Story,
Jonathan Fassett,	Samuel Tubbs,
Josiah Fuller,	Joseph Wickwire,
Thos. Hendemon,	Samuel Wright,
Zachariah Harwood,	

SAMUEL ROBINSON, *Clerk.*"

The above list is supposed to embrace all the able bodied men then in town, between the ages of 18 and 60.

In the 4th volume of the Documentary History of New York, at page 555, is a printed list of persons settled in Bennington, prior to June 7, 1765, prepared from records, by Samuel Robinson, Esq., in New York city, in December of that year, and furnished the Governor of that province—Mr. Robinson then being in New York, as the agent of the settlers.

This list contains the following names not found on the foregoing Military roll, viz:

George Abbott,	Samuel Montague,
Hezekiah Armstrong,	Jedediah Merrill,
Elkanah Ashley,	John Pratt,
Benjamin Atwell,	Silas Pratt,
Benjamin Brownson,	Samuel Robinson, Esq.
Eliphalet Collins,	Ebenezer Robinson,
Rev. Jedediah Dewey,	Joseph Rudd,
Jonathan Eastman,	Stephen Story,
Barnabas Harman,	Gideon Spencer,
Simeon Harman,	Samuel Sweet,
Eleazer Harwood,	Benjamin Warner,
Jacob Hyde,	Daniel Warner,
John Holmes,	Seth Warner,
John Holmes, jr.	Benjamin Whipple.

Of these Samuel Robinson, Esq., Samuel Montague, and perhaps two or three others, were among the earliest settlers; but who, from age, or for other reasons, had not been enrolled in the military company. The residue were doubtless new comers.

On a petition of the settlers to the King, dated Nov., 1766, are found the following names, not on either of the previous lists, viz:

"Joseph Barber, Robert Cochran, jr., Jonathan Carpenter, Nathaniel Dickinson, M. D., Stephen Fay, Nathaniel Holmes, Nathaniel Holmes, jr., Samuel Hunt, Elnathan Hubbell, Israel Hurd, Weight Hopkins, Stephen Hopkins, Daniel Mills, Joseph Robinson, Nathaniel Spencer, Henry Walbridge jr., Joseph Willoughby."

On a petition to the Governor of New Hampshire, dated October, 1769, the following new names are found among the Bennington petitioners, viz:

Brotherton

"Ebenezer Allen, Cornelius Cady, jr., Reuben Colvin, Brotherton Daggett, Elijah Fay, Benj. Fay, Joseph Fay, Nathaniel Filmore, Jesse Graves, Simeon Harmon, jr., Jacob Hyde, jr., Daniel Harmon, Simeon Hathaway, Thomas Jewett, Ebenezer Lyman, Josiah Noble, Seth Porter, Joshua Reynolds, Jona. Scott, jr., John Stewart, Azel Warner, Reuben Warner, Isaac Warren, Elijah Wood."

There were other inhabitants of the town, whose names are not found on either of the foregoing petitions. The following appear on the town records, viz:

"In 1768, Jonas Fay, Robert Cochran, 2d; in 1769, Samuel Herrick; in 1770, Ebenezer Walbridge, in 1771, Charles Cushman; in 1772, Elnathan Hubbell, jr., David Haynes, Moses Hurd, Rozwell Mosely, and in 1774, Jesse Tinney, Zepheniah Branch, Benjamin Webb and Eleazer Hawks."

Many others were here prior to the commence-

ment of the Revo[illegible] were the following: [illegible] Brush, Samuel Black[illegible] Bingham, John Brac[illegible] Wm. Henry, Joseph H[illegible] John Weeks. Besides [illegible] of the early emigrants [illegible] from children to man[illegible] members of society, [illegible] fords, Deweys, Harwo[illegible] Walbridges, and other [illegible] The year of 1781 [illegible] hardship to the settler [illegible] arriving in town was t[illegible] shelter from the weat[illegible] houses were out of t[illegible] logs for walls, poles [illegible] roof, and earth for the [illegible] ed. As much land a[illegible] sown with fall grain, [illegible] horseback many mile[illegible] for more extensive s[illegible] suing spring. But to [illegible] to raise available fo[illegible] was necessary. To [illegible] ors of the town, at [illegible] 1762, voted to give [illegible] seph Safford 5 acres [illegible] ing a corn mill by t[illegible] being afterwards ext[illegible] ber, when it was co[illegible] the place now occup[illegible] ton & Co. It was al[illegible] give the like sum to [illegible] saw mill on the ea[illegible] same for building [illegible] first of the ensuing [illegible] son and Safford bu[illegible] June, on the oppos[illegible] grist mill. It is al[illegible] eridge and Thom[illegible] mill within the [illegible] west of the Isla[illegible] the west part of th[illegible] taxed themselves [illegible] which were laid [illegible] and west through[illegible] tions as necessity [illegible] The first town [illegible] 1762, at the hou[illegible] following officers [illegible] tague, Moderato[illegible] Clerk; Samuel [illegible] Breakenridge, Be[illegible] wire, Selectmen [illegible] Treasurer; [illegible] Smith, jr., Co[illegible] Field, Tithing [illegible] Smith, jr., [illegible]

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ment of the Revolution, in 1775, among whom were the following: Thomas Abel, Nathaniel Brush, Samuel Blackmer, Jeremiah and Calvin Bingham, John Bracket, Eleazer Edgerton, Wm. Henry, Joseph Hinsdill, John Kinsley and John Weeks. Besides these several of the sons of the early emigrants to the town had grown from children to manhood, and become active members of society, viz: of the Robinsons, Safords, Deweys, Harwoods, Hubbells, Harmans, Walbridges, and others.

The year of 1761 was one of privation and hardship to the settlers. Their first business on arriving in town was to provide themselves with shelter from the weather. Boards for building houses were out of the question. Huts, with logs for walls, poles and brush or bark for the roof, and earth for the floor, were speedily erected. As much land as possible was cleared and sown with fall grain, the seed being brought on horseback many miles. Preparations were made for more extensive sowing and planting the ensuing spring. But to make the grain they hoped to raise available for bread, a mill to grind it was necessary. To remedy this, the proprietors of the town, at a meeting held March 31st, 1762, voted to give Samuel Robinson and Joseph Safford 5 acres of land and $40,00 for building a corn mill by the first of August; the time being afterwards extended to the first of September, when it was completed and ready for use at the place now occupied by the paper mill of Benton & Co. It was also voted at the same time to give the like sum to any one who would build a saw mill on the east side of the town, and the same for building one on the west side, by the first of the ensuing September. Messrs. Robinson and Safford built the saw mill by the 18th of June, on the opposite side of the stream from the grist mill. It is also believed that James Breakenridge and Thomas Henderson built the saw mill within the specified time, on the stream west of the Island, at Paper Mill Village, for the west part of the town. The proprietors also taxed themselves heavily for making highways, which were laid out north and south, and east and west through the town, and in other directions as necessity or convenience required.

The first town meeting was held March 31, 1762, at the house of John Fassett, when the following officers were chosen, viz: Samuel Montague, Moderator; Moses Robinson, Town Clerk; Samuel Montague, Samuel Scott, James Breakenridge, Benajah Rood and Joseph Wickwire, Selectmen; Dea. Joseph Safford, Town Treasurer; Samuel Robinson, jr. and John Smith, jr., Constables; Dea. Safford and Elisha Field, Tithing men; Peter Harwood and John Smith, jr., Haywards; Samuel Atwood and Samuel Pratt, Fence viewers; Timothy Pratt and Oliver Scott, Deerifts.

These officers were such as were then authorized and required by the laws of New Hampshire, the duties of those last named relating to the preservation of deer during the season in which the killing of them was prohibited.—Thus the settlement became organized into a little republic, acknowledging fealty to New Hampshire, by which its existence as a part of the province had been recognized, not only by granting its land, but by the appointment of Capt. Samuel Robinson as a justice of the peace, his commission bearing date Feb. 8, 1762.

Among the acts of municipal legislation performed at this first meeting of the town was that of offering a bounty for the destruction of venomous serpents, recorded in the following words, viz: "Voted, that any rattlesnake that is killed in Bennington shall be paid two coppers, the persons bringing in the tail." From the language of this vote it would seem, that the rattlesnake was to have the coppers, though it may, perhaps, be safely presumed, that they were intended for the person who killed him.

This is rather a rare specimen of the inaccuracy of language in our town records, they having in general from the beginning been kept, not only in a fair hand, but in plain, intelligible style, and without very frequent violations of grammatical propriety. They remain, down to the present time, in a good state of preservation.

The years 1762, '63 and '64, were years of success and prosperity with the settlers. At the first meeting of the proprietors, Feb. 11, 1762, a committee had been appointed to look out a place to set the meeting house, and at an adjourned meeting on the 26th of the same month, the place was agreed upon, and measures soon after taken to provide for erecting it. The Rev. Jedediah Dewey had been settled as minister of the church and congregation, in the fall of 1763, and stated and regular religious worship provided for. By the year 1765 a large portion of the town had become occupied by industrious settlers from Massachusetts and Connecticut, who had cleared much of the land, erected dwelling-houses and barns, with mills, opened and worked highways, and established schools for the instruction of children and youth, and were living in a comfortable and thriving condition. Settlements had also been made to the northward as far as Danby, and extensive preparations were making for occupying other townships, as well as for extending the settlements in those already commenced.—the tillers of the hard New England soil being then, as they have often been since, swarming for emigration to new and uncultivated lands

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7523 GRAND PARKWAY
WAUWATOSA, WI 53213-8566

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Among the judgments in Ejectment, which had been recovered at Albany, were two for lands in Bennington, one against James Breakenridge, who resided towards the north west part of the town, about a mile from New York line at the place now occupied by his grandson, John Breakenridge. The other judgment was against Josiah Fuller, whose house and farm were in the southeasterly part of the town, a little to the eastward of the present residence of Thomas Jewett. Dr. Fuller, the defendant, had been settled on the farm for several years, when it was granted by Colden to one Slaughter, under date of May 30, 1765, before the occupant could possibly have had an opportunity to apply for a confirmation of his New Hampshire title.

On the return of the defendants and their friends to Bennington, a meeting of the settlers of the town was called to determine what should be done. It was plainly a matter in which their all was at stake. By the decision of the New York judges their titles were all declared to be invalid, and the only alternative left them was to surrender their property to their mercenary enemies, or bid defiance to the process of the court. After duly considering the consequences of whichever course they should take, they resolved upon the latter. They accordingly voted to take the farms of Breakenridge and Fuller under the protection of the town, and to defend them against the New York officers, at all hazzards.

Encouraged by the success of the Albany trials, the New York claimants of the Walloomsack patent made a second attempt to divide the lands of Mr. Breakenridge between them, but met with quite as decided opposition as before, whereupon Lord Dunmore, then governor of the province, issued his proclamation for the arrest of the "rioters," Simeon Breakenridge, Moses Scott, Jonathan Fisk and Silas Robinson, being designated "as the principal authors and actors in the riot and breach of the peace." These persons, with twelve others, were indicted as rioters, and the sheriff of Albany county with his under officers, aided by John Munro, soon afterwards succeeded in arresting one of their number. This John Munro had seated himself on Little White Creek, just within the limits of the town of Shaftsbury, under the patronage of Duane and Kempe, the noted New York speculators, with whom he kept up an active correspondence. He had been commissioned as a justice of the peace for the county of Albany, and was not only ready to exercise his judicial functions against the New Hampshire settlers, but also, when occasion offered, to act in the capacity of constable or sheriff's assistant in arresting them. Silas Robinson, one of the party indicted, resided on the main road, about two miles north of the Bennington village, at the place now occupied by Stephen Robinson. Early in the morning of the 28th of Nov., the sheriff and his party went to his house, and coming upon him when he was off his guard, succeeded in taking him prisoner; and by returning with great speed before notice could be given to his neighbors, they were enabled to carry him off to Albany, where he was detained in jail for several months. He is believed to have been the only settler in the grants whom the Yorkers, as they were styled, were ever able to arrest and punish as a rioter, though great numbers were accused and indicted as such.

Now came on the great trial at Bennington that was to determine the strength of New York laws, and the fate of the settlers. Several attempts had been made by the Sheriff of Albany to execute writs of possession against Breakenridge and Fuller; but he had been so effectually threatened and opposed, that they had all proved unsuccessful, and there seemed no other way for the plaintiffs to acquire the possession of the farms of the defendants, than for the sheriff to call to his aid the power of the county. This was accordingly resolved upon, and great preparations made to ensure its success.

Sheriff Ten Eyck made a general summons of the citizens of Albany, and when he left the city for Bennington, on the morning of the 28th of July, 1771, he found himself at the head of over three hundred variously armed men, of different occupations and professions; among whom, of the gentry of the town, were the Mayor and several Aldermen, and four eminent counsellors of the law, viz., Messrs. Sylvester, Robert Yates, Christopher Yates, and Mr. Bleecker. The party halted for the night at Sancoik, just below the present village of North Hoosick, and having received some addition to its numbers by new levies on the way, took up its march the next morning for the residence of Mr. Breakenridge, some 6 or 7 miles distant.

The settlers had received notice of the approach of the sheriff and his posse, and had prepared themselves for their reception. Mr. Breakenridge's house was situated about a mile from the New York line at the foot of a slight range of land running east and west, then covered with woods; along the southerly side of which ridge ran the road past the house, and by which from the west, the posse would naturally

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disputed lands, by calling into public action the civil power of the province, would necessarily prove unavailing. This defeat of the New York claimants was the entering wedge that eventually severed the people of the New Hampshire Grants from a province to which they had been unknowingly annexed by the arbitrary will of the Crown. Here, in fact, on the farm of James Breakenridge, was born the future State of Vermont, which, struggling through the perils of infancy, had, by the commencement of the general revolution, acquired the activity and strength of adventurous youth; by its close reached the full stature of manhood, and not long afterwards had become the acknowledged equal of its associate American republics.

From the time of the retreat of the Sheriff's posse from Bennington, the forcible opposition to the New York patentees took a more definite and systematic form, throughout the several townships on the west side of the Green Mountain, being more fully regulated by conventions, and carried into effect by a military association which had been organized for that purpose. One company of this military organization was formed in Bennington, of which Seth Warner was Captain, and other similar companies were organized in other townships, the whole, when acting together, to be commanded by Ethan Allen, to whom the title of Colonel was given. In defiant contempt of a reported threat of the governor of New York, that he would "drive the opposers of his government into the Green Mountains," this military body assumed for themselves the name of *Green Mountain Boys*, which eventually became an honorable appellation for the hardy freemen of the territory they inhabited. This name was not, however, readily recognized by the New Yorkers as a proper designation of their antagonists, who shared the common lot of all early opposers of government oppression, of being stigmatized as "rioters," "conspirators," and "wanton disturbers of the public peace." These and other opprobrious terms were applied to them, when spoken of individually. Collectively, they were usually styled "the Bennington Mob," continuing to be called by this name in the New York correspondence and official accounts of them, long after Bennington and its vicinity had ceased to be the place of their active operations.

But the New York claimants and government officials did not enjoy a monopoly in the calling of hard names. They in their turn were commonly designated by the New Hampshire settlers as "Yorkers," as "Yorkites," and were not unfrequently called "unfeeling speculators" and "jobbers," "land thieves," "land pirates," &c.

But the New York controversy, more especially from this period, belongs to the history of the state, rather than to that of a town, and cannot with propriety be pursued further in our sketch of Bennington. It may, however, be stated that the head quarters of the opponents of New York continued, for a long time, to be at Bennington; the place where the councils of the leaders were held, where their plans were devised and matured, being at the Green Mountain tavern kept by Stephen Fay, the sign of which was the stuffed skin of a Catamount, with teeth grinning towards New York. When Allen, Baker and Cochran, in daring mockery of a proclamation of the governor of New York for their apprehension, issued printed handbills over their signatures offering a reward of £15 for James Duane, and £10 for Attorney General Kempe, "those common disturbers of the public peace," as they were styled, were required to be delivered "at Landlord Fay's, in Bennington."

The house where this then famous tavern was kept, and which was subsequently occupied by the council of safety during the trying period of the Revolution, is still standing, being the second dwelling north of the Court House, on the same side of the highway. It is now occupied by Samuel Fay, Esq., a grandson of the original proprietor, a venerable and worthy representative of the olden time, now in the 89th year of his age, having been born Aug. 16, 1772. He was consequently just five years old on the day of Bennington battle, of which he has a clear recollection. He also distinctly remembers Gov. Thomas Chittenden, Gen. Ethan Allen, Col. Seth Warner, and other notables in the youthful days of Vermont. He served as deputy to Sheriff David Robinson for 14 years, from 1793 to 1811, and from that time for 12 years, until 1823, as Sheriff of the county, the duties of which offices he performed to the entire satisfaction of all. Long may he live in the continued enjoyment of the respect and affection of his large circle of acquaintances and friends.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

The opening of the revolutionary war found the people of Bennington nominally under the jurisdiction of New York, but substantially independent, obeying only the decrees of committees and conventions, and of their own town meetings. In none of the proceedings of the town was the authority of New York ever recognized. The warnings of their meetings up to the year 1770 are headed "Province of New Hampshire"—after that date no province is

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specified. The people of the town had been prepared to enter actively into the contest for American liberty, by sharing in the general hostility to the arbitrary measures of the British crown and ministry; by sympathy with their friends in Massachusetts and Connecticut, from whence they had emigrated; by deep distrust of a monarch who had permitted his greedy servants, in his name, to grant his lands twice over, and to persecute his first grantees as felons and outlaws; by the hesitating and tardy manner in which their old enemies of the province of New York had seconded the patriotic measures of the other colonies; and finally, by the massacre, by the king's New York officers, of one of the inhabitants of the New-Hampshire Grants at Westminster.

The people of Bennington were well aware of the importance of the post of Ticonderoga, in the approaching contest, and early in March, 1775, their committee had agreed with John Brown, an agent of Samuel Adams and Joseph Warren, of the Massachusetts committee, that the Green Mountain Boys would hold themselves in readiness to seize that fort, whenever they should learn that hostilities had been commenced by the King's forces in that province. When, therefore, a few days after the Battle of Lexington, messengers arrived from Connecticut, accompanied by Brown, for the purpose of collecting a force to make an attack upon that place, they found here a body of men with minds already prepared for the expedition. The old military corps which had done effectual service in guarding the territory from the intrusion of the Yorkers, and occasionally administering rather sharp punishment to some of the most incorrigible of them, was speedily mustered and on their way to the Lake; the town of Bennington furnishing the Commander and two of the Captains, Warner and Herrick, as well as a considerable portion of the officers and men. But the details of this expedition, and also its important consequences, belong to general history. The immediate result of it was the well-known surrender of the fortress, on the demand of Allen, to a *two-fold authority*, one of which, that of "the Continental Congress," had, perhaps, never before been heard of by the garrison, *and the other*—it has been rather uncharitably suggested—was probably not much better known to them.

The news of this unanticipated event came upon the friends of the King like a clap of thunder in a clear sky, and seemed a melancholy presage of the future. Lieut. Gov. Colden, who was then administering the government of New York, and devoting all his energies to sustain the odious measures of his royal master, in giving a doleful account of the great misfortune to Lord Dartmouth, the English minister, seems to seek some consolation in the fact, that the King's loyal and order-loving subjects, in the old colony of New York, were not concerned in it. "The only people of this province," he says in his dispatch, "who had any hand in this expedition, were that set of lawless people, *whom your Lordship has heard much of, under the name of the Bennington Mob.*"

Neither the prescribed limits of this sketch, nor the time permitted for its preparation, will allow of a detailed account of the part taken by the town of Bennington, as such, or its people, as individuals, in the Revolutionary struggle. Only some of the most prominent matters can be noticed, and most of them must be hastily passed over.

In the regiment of Green Mountain Boys which was raised under the advice of the Continental Congress, in the summer of 1775, for service in Canada, the town of Bennington was represented by Seth Warner, as its Lieut. Col. and Commandant, Samuel Safford as Major, Wait Hopkins as Captain, and John Fassett, jr. Lieutenant, and by many others, in different capacities. Among the important services performed by this regiment was the decisive defeat of Gen. Carlton, at Longueil, which prevented his furnishing relief to St. Johns, and caused its immediate surrender, and also the abandonment of Montreal to the American forces under Gen. Montgomery.

1776.

The year 1776 opened with the gloomy intelligence of the defeat and fall of Montgomery before Quebec, and with a strong appeal from Gen. Wooster, in Canada, for re-inforcements from the Grants. Col. Warner, whose regiment of Green Mountain Boys had been but a few weeks honorably discharged, again beat up for volunteers, and he was in a few days at the head of another regiment, which immediately marched to Quebec, and endured the hardships and perils of a winter campaign, bringing up the rear of the retreating American army the ensuing spring. No list of either the officers or men comprising this regiment has been found. A fragment of a pay-roll merely shows that Gideon Brownson of Sunderland, was Captain of one of the companies, of which Ebenezer Walbridge, of this town, was Lieutenant, as well as Adjutant of the regiment.

The Continental Congress was so well satisfied with the services, in Canada, of the men from the New Hampshire Grants, that a resolution was passed on the 5th of July, 1776, for raising a separate Continental regiment of reg-

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ular troops, the officers of which were appointed from that territory. Of this regiment—which continued in service through the war—Seth Warner, the Colonel, Samuel Safford, Lieut. Colonel, Wait Hopkins, Captain, Joseph Safford, Lieutenant, Jacob Safford, Ensign, and Bejamin Hopkins, Adjutant, were from Bennington.

By the retreat of the American forces from Canada, the northern portion of the Grants became exposed to the invasions of the enemy, and at a town meeting held Sept. 23, 1776, it was voted to raise £90, "as an encouragement of those who may enlist into the service of guarding the frontier towns in the grants," to be appropriated in bounty of "forty shillings per man." It was also voted "to raise a sufficiency of money to pay those that went from this town, last June or July, to guard said frontier, if the Continent dont pay them."

In October, upon notice from Gen. Gates, then in command on the Lakes, of an expected attack upon Ticonderoga, the militia of Bennington and the neighboring towns, under Col. Moses Robinson, turned out *en masse*, and marched to his relief. At the same time Mr. Yancey, the commissary of that department, addressed a letter to the chairman of the committee of the town of Bennington, informing him that an immediate supply of flour was necessary for the subsistence of the army, and urging the committee, in the most pressing terms, to collect and forward at once all that was in their power. The next day after the receipt of this requisition, Nathan Clark, the chairman of the committee, returned for answer, that 1000 bushels of wheat had been collected, and was being ground at the mills, and would be forwarded as fast as possible; but saying "that the militia having left us almost to a man, renders it very difficult to furnish assistance to convey what we have already on hand," and suggesting the propriety of discharging some of the militia, for the purpose of having them employed in that service. For their promptness and energy in this matter, the Committee not only received the very warm thanks of the Commissary, but also a dispatch from Deputy Adj. General Trumbull, in which he says, "The General has seen your letter to Mr. Yancey, and directs me to return you his most cordial thanks for the zeal you expressed for the service of our insulted country. Agreeable to the request of the Committee, he has ordered one of the Companies from your town to return for the purpose of assisting in a work so necessary for the good of the army." The alarm for the safety of Ticonderoga passed over, and Col. Robinson's regiment of militia were discharged early in the month of November. On dismissing them from service, the General addressed to Col. Robinson a testimonial of their service as follows:

TICONDEROGA, Nov. 9, 1776.

To COL. MOSES ROBINSON:—

SIR—I am to return to you and the officers and men of your regiment my sincere thanks, for the spirit and alertness you have shown in marching to the defence of this important post, when threatened with an immediate attack from the enemy. I now, gentlemen, dismiss you with honor. I also certify that neither you nor any of your officers have received any pay from me for your services on this occasion. That I leave to be settled and adjusted between your State and the general Congress of all the United States. With sentiments of gratitude and respect,

I am, Sir, your most
Obedient humble servant,
HORATIO GATES.

A roll of one of the companies from Bennington which was in service on this occasion, has been found among the papers of Captain Elijah Dewey, who commanded it. The following is a copy:

"Pay Roll of Captain Elijah Dewey's Company in Col. Moses Robinson's Regiment of the Militia in the service of the United States of America, Mount Independence, 1776.

Elijah Dewey, Capt., Ebenezer Walbridge, 1st. Lieut., Thomas Jewett, 2d Lieut., Nathaniel Fillmore, Ensign—Joseph Rudd, Daniel Harman, John Fay, Sergeants, John Smith, Jedediah Merrill, Thomas Story, Corporals. [Privates] Samuel Cutler, Ezekiel Harman, Joseph Wickwire, Daniel Kinsley, Jonathan Parsons, Andrew Weaver, Abner Marble, Phineas Scott, Aaron Haynes, Silas Harman, Joseph Robinson, Ezekiel Smith, Seth Porter, David Powers, Hopestill Armstrong, Joseph Willoughby, Samuel Hunt, Joshua Carpenter, Othniel Green, Philip Matteson, Roswel Moseley."

1777.

The people of Bennington took an active and patriotic part in the stirring events of the year 1777.

Anxious to complete the regiment of Col. Warner, which was to represent their town and the New Hampshire Grants in the regular continental army, the town, at a meeting held the 14th of April, voted to raise £240 lawful money, ($800) to be paid in bounties of $40 to each man from the town that should enlist in such regiment.

In the month of June, on the advance of Burgoyne up Lake Champlain, the militia regiment of Col. Moses Robinson, which among other companies included two from this town, was called into service, and was at Mount Independence when that fort, together with Ticonderoga, was evacuated by St. Clair, July 6, 1777. At this time the Convention for forming the

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Walloomsack, with somewhat lower hills to the north and west of it, and a large plain, then partly covered with woods, across the river in front. The Walloomsack, which is a crooked, fordable branch of the Hoosick, after running a northerly direction for half a mile beyond the encampment of Stark, turns gradually to the west, and then again suddenly to the south, in which direction it passes the encampment of Baum, and then takes a westerly course by Sancoik, which is about two miles below the position of Baum. The encampments of the two hostile armies were about two miles from each other, and the road from Bennington, by Sancoik to Cambaidge, passed both of them; but by reason of the bend in the river, crossing it twice between them. On the hill, of which Baum had taken possession, which was covered with woods, he immediately commenced throwing up entrenchments of earth and timber, and continued thus to strengthen his position, until the attack upon him commenced on the afternoon of the 16th; his encampment being also defended by two brass field-pieces. He had been joined, on his way from the Hudson and at his encampment, by a considerable body of loyalists of the vicinity. Among these was Francis Pfister, a retired British officer of the French war, who resided on what is now known as the Tibbetts place, half a mile west of Hoosick Four Corners, and was familiarly known as Col. Pfister. These loyalists, together with Peter's corps of provincials, were posted on the other side of the river, three-fourths of a mile to the S. E. of Baum, and upon a hill considerably lower than that occupied by him. Here also were erected works of defence, of earth and logs, designated by the Americans as the "Tory Breastwork." Tradition, in the vicinity, assigns the immediate command of this post to Col. Pfister, and there seems no room for doubt that he occupied a prominent position there as an officer, if he was not in its actual command. The road crossed the river about midway between these two posts, at what has been latterly known as the Barnet place, and is at the second rail road bridge, in passing from North Bennington to Troy. Between the two bridges the Baum hill covered with woods, may be seen by the traveler from the cars to the right, and the place of the "Tory breastwork," in a cleared field to he left.

The force under Gen. Stark consisted of three regiments of New Hampshire militia, respectively commanded by Cols. Hubbard, Stickney and Nichols, a small body of militia from the east side of the mountain, under Col. Wm. Williams of Wilmington, a corps of Rangers then forming under the authority of the Vermont Council of Safety, commanded by Col. Herrick, a body of militia from Bennington and its vicinity under Col. Nathaniel Brush, of which there were two companies from Bennington, the one commanded by Capt. Samuel Robinson and the other by Capt. Elijah Dewey, and Stark was afterwards joined by part of a militia regiment from Berkshire county under Col. Simmons—his whole force probably amounting to about 1600 men.

On the night of the 14th, after taking up his encampment, Stark called a council, and it was resolved to attack the enemy the next morning. But the 15th proved so rainy as to prevent a general action! but the exact position of the enemy was ascertained by scouts and skirmishers, and the plan of attack fully matured. The morning of the 16th opened bright and clear, and to the Americans closed no less brightly. But we prefer to allow Gen. Stark to give an account of the battle in his own words. This was done by him in a letter addressed to Gen. Gates, of which the following is an accurate copy.

General Stark to General Gates.

Bennington, August 22, 1777.

DEAR GENERAL:—

I received yours of the 19th instant, which gave me much pleasure; I beg to be excused for not answering it sooner. I have been so sick ever since that I could not write, neither am I well yet. But General Lincoln has written and I joined with him in opinion on the subject of his letter.

I shall now give your honor a short account of the action on the 16th instant. I was informed there was a party of Indians in Cambridge, on their march to this place; I sent [Lt.] Colonel Gregg of my brigade, to stop them with two hundred men. In the night I was informed, by express, that there was a large body of the enemy on their march, in the rear of the Indians. I rallied all my brigade and what militia was at this place, in order to stop their proceedings. I likewise sent to Manchester, to Col. Warner's regiment that was stationed there; also sent express for the militia to come in with all speed to our assistance, which was punctually obeyed. I then marched in company with Colonels Warner, Williams, Herick and Brush, with all the men that were present. About five miles from this place I met Colonel Gregg on his retreat, and the enemy in close pursuit after him. I drew up my little army in order of battle; but when the enemy hove in sight, they halted on a very advantageous hill or piece of ground. I sent out small parties in their front to skirmish with them, which scheme had a good effect: they killed and wounded thirty of the enemy, without any loss on our side; but the ground that I was on did not suit for a general action. I marched back about one mile and encamped, called a council, and it was agreed that we should send two detachments in their rear, while the others attacked them in front; but the 15th it rained

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But the joy of the people of Bennington was not unmixed with sadness. Four of its most respected citizens had fallen on the field of battle. They were John Fay, (a son of Stephen,) Henry Walbridge, (brother of Ebenezer,) Daniel Warner, (cousin of the Colonel,) and Nathan Clark, (son of Nathan, and brother of Isaac afterwards known as "old Rifle.") They were all in the prime of life, and all heads of families, leaving widows and children to mourn their sudden bereavement. The grief for their loss was not confined to their immediate relatives, but was general, deep and sincere.

Among those of the enemy who lost their lives in the action were the commander of the expedition, Col. Baum, and the leader of the tories, Col. Pfister. They were both mortally wounded, and separately brought a mile and a half this side the battle-ground, to a house still standing opposite the paper-mill of Messrs. Hunter & Co. They both died within twenty-four hours, and were buried near the bank of the river, a few rods below the paper-mill—There is nothing to mark the spot, and the *precise* place of their interment is not known.

My 4thgt.gd.mother Ruth Lawrence was a.8yrs old when this annual anniversary date was held.

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Of the relics of the battle remaining in town, there is a broad sword which was taken from Col. Baum, on the field of battle, by Lieut. Thomas Jewett, of Capt. Dewey's company. It was afterwards purchased by David Robinson, and used by him as a Captain of cavalry, and subsequently as a field and general officer of the militia, and is still in the possession of his grandson, George W. Robinson.

One of the two persons who captured the wounded Col. Pfister was Jonathan Armstrong,* a volunteer from the vicinity of Bennington, and into whose hands there fell, as the spoils of war, a portion of his baggage, among which was found his commission, on parchment, as "Lieutenant in his Majesty's Sixtieth, or Royal American Regiment of Foot," dated Sept. 18, 1760, and signed by Sir Jeffery Amherst; a set of draughting instruments, and a map of the route from St. Johns, through lakes Champlain and George, and along the Hudson to New York. The map is in three parts for the convenience of folding and use, the whole being about 4 feet long, by 10 inches inside. The lakes and rivers are colored, and the whole is so neatly and accurately done with a pen, as to be scarcely distinguishable from a fine engraving. These relics are in the possession of the honorable L. B. Armstrong, of Dorset, a grandson of the soldier into whose hands they fell on the battle-field.

Two of the four brass field pieces taken in the battle, are now in the Capitol at Montpelier, with the following inscription of ancient date, engraved on each, viz:

"Taken from the Germans, at Bennington, Aug. 16, 1777."

Tradition furnishes many anecdotes of the individual prowess and adventure of men engaged in the battle, and also of female exertion and courage connected with its approach and progress, which it might be interesting to relate, but which for want of space must be passed over. For the same reason we forbear to mention the subsequent exertions made by the people of Bennington, to aid in stopping the progress of Burgoyne, other than to say, that they were continued both in men and means, fully up to their ability, until the Campaign was ended by his surrender at Saratoga, the 17th of October following.

The 16th of August has, ever since the battle, been a holiday in Bennington and its vicinity, being usually observed in a similar manner with that of the fourth of July in other parts of the country. The first anniversary day in 1778, was celebrated with appropriate patriotic demonstrations, an oration being delivered on the occasion by Noah Smith, and a poem by Stephen Jacob, both of which have been preserved, and are creditable to the authors. Both these gentlemen are believed to have then just graduated at Yale College, both were afterwards lawyers by profession, and both became prominent men in the "new state," to which they were emigrating.

Copy of Capt. Samuel Robinson's Roll, August 16, 1777—were in battle

Robert Cochran,	Samuel Henry,
Gideon Spencer,	Edward Henderson,
William Henry,	Jonathan Haynes,
Henry Walbridge,	Archelaus Tupper,
Rufus Branch,	Daniel Warner,
John Larned,	Lt. Simeon Hathaway,
Thomas Abel,	Aaron Miller,
Nathan Lawrence,	John Fay,
Josiah Brush,	Elijah Fay,
David Fay, (Fifer)	Joseph Fay,
Leonard Robinson,	John Clark,
Daniel Biddlecome,	Jehosephat Holmes,
Levi Hatheway,	Moses Rice,
Abram Hatheway,	Benj. Whipple, jr.,
Reuben Colvin,	Silas Robinson,
Eliphalet Stickney,	John Weeks,
Daniel Rude,	Moses Scott,
Benj. Holmes,	Alpheus Hathaway,
James Marvater,	Solomon Walbridge,
Mr. Alger,	Ebenezer Bracket,
Ammie Fuller,	Jehiel Smith,
Jonah Brewster,	Asa Branch,
George Dale,	Phinehas Wright,
John Marble,	John Smith,
Ephraim Marble,	Jesse Belknap,
Aaron Hubbell,	Silvanus Brown,
Samuel Safford, jr.,	John Forbes,
Aaron Smith,	Stephen Williams,
Ephraim Smith,	William Post,

* See Dorset biographical department.

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David Safford,	Elisha Smith,
Jared Post,	Solomon Safford,
Jeremiah Bingham,	Joseph Roe,
Samuel Slocum,	William Terrill,
Josiah Hurd,	Noah Beach,
Ezekiel Brewster,	Simeon Sears,
Solomon Leason,	David Robinson,
Thomas Selden,	Joseph Safford,
John Rigney,	Isaac Webster,

Although the capture of Burgoyne and his army, in the fall of 1777, was a most fortunate event in the revolutionary struggle, yet it left Lake Champlain in the possession of the enemy, and Vermont, during the remaining 5 years of the war, constantly exposed to their incursions. This exposure, and the frequent appearance of a strong British force towards the south end of the Lake gave countenance and encouragement to the loyalists in Northern New York and Vermont, and kept the inhabitants of Bennington and its vicinity in a state of almost continual apprehension and alarm.

In the spring of 1778 the effective, but undefined authority of the Council of Safety ceased and gave place to a regular government under the state constitution. The first state Legislature assembled at Windsor on the 12th of March, and after a session of two weeks, adjourned to meet at Bennington on the 4th of June following.

On the evening of the last day of May, four days before the meeting of the Assembly, Col. Ethan Allen returned to Bennington from his captivity, after an absence of nearly three years and the next day was one of great rejoicing. The people flocked into town to welcome him and the old iron 6 pounder which, in 1772, had been transported from the Fort at East Hoosick for defence against an apprehended invasion by Gov. Tryon, of New York, with a body of land claimants and British regulars, was brought out and, notwithstanding a great scarcity of powder, was fired fourteen times—"once for each of the thirteen United States, and once for young Vermont."

Allen returned to find his old friends as unreconciled as ever to British rule, and if possible, still more hostile to tories than they had formerly been to Yorkers. They were at that time under great excitement in regard to a tory by the name of David Redding, who had been detected in going back and forth to and from the enemy on the Lake, and, finally, in clandestinely taking and carrying off for the use of the tories, a number of guns from the house of David Robinson, where they had been lodged for safe keeping. For these acts he had been charged with the crime of "enemical conduct," and, in pursuance of the demand of public opinion, had, upon satisfactory evidence, been convicted and sentenced to be hung on the 4th of June, the day appointed for the meeting of the Legislature. After the Governor and Council had met, it was shown to them by John Burnham, attorney for Redding, that he had been tried by six jurors only, and that the common law required a jury of twelve, upon which the Council, on the morning of the day appointed for his execution, in order that the Assembly might have time to act on the case, granted him a reprieve "until Thursday next, at two o'clock in the afternoon," adding, in their order: "This Council do not doubt, in the least, but that the said Redding will have justice done him, to the satisfaction of the public." The reprieve had been granted too late to prevent the assembling of a large concourse of people to witness the execution of one whom they, as well as the court, had already condemned as a traitor and spy. When the multitude found that the execution was not to take place, they were clamorous at their disappointment; and there were some indications that another tribunal, since personified as "Judge Lynch," might take the matter in hand. Whereupon Ethan Allen, suddenly pressing through the crowd, mounted a stump, and waving his hat exclaiming, "*attention the whole*," proceeded to announce the reasons which produced the reprieve, advised the multitude to depart peacably to their habitations, and return the day fixed for the execution in the act of the Governor and Council, adding with an oath, "you shall see somebody hung at all events, for if Redding is not then hung, I will be hung myself." Upon this assurance the uproar ceased, and the crowd dispersed.

Redding, in accordance with Allen's prediction, was hung on the 11th of June, the day to which his execution had been postponed by the Council, he having on the 9th been tried and convicted by a jury of twelve, Allen, by appointment of the Governor and Council, acting as attorney for the state. The place of execution was in a field west of the road, and opposite the tavern house of "Landlord Fay." For want of a jail, Redding had been confined in the saddle-room of the tavern-house shed, and had once, for the want of sufficient care of one Sackett, his keeper, escaped, and fled as far as Hoosick, where he had been retaken. For Sackett's negligence he was required by Sheriff Benjamin Fay, to drive the wagon with Redding to the place of execution.

Although public opinion seemed to be uniform in demanding the execution of Redding, yet, after the excitement in regard to him had subsided, the propriety of the sentence was sometimes called in question. The writer of this sketch recollects, when a small boy, of

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"The Vermont Historical Gazeeteer" by Abby M. Hemenway, pub. 1868 Vol I

admitted to the bar in 1797, and died Sept. 27, 1812.

ANDREW SELDEN was born at Hadley, Mass., when young removed with his father to Stamford, represented that town in the General Assembly for six successive years, from 1790, came to Bennington about 1797, studied law with Jonathan Robinson, was admitted to the bar in December, 1800, was Register of Probate several years, and died Sept. 1825, aged 63.

JONATHAN E. ROBINSON, son of Jonathan Robinson, admitted December, 1800. (See notice of his father.)

DAVID ROBINSON, jr., son of Gen. David Robinson, born July 12, 1777, admitted to the bar December, 1800, and died in March 1858. He was in reputable practice for many years.

SAMUEL B. YOUNG was born at Stockbridge, Mass., and was admitted to the bar in this county in December 1803. He commenced practice with brilliant prospects and a good business, which, however, he gradually lost, together with the confidence of the community. He was afterwards noted for his full drab quaker dress, and his keen wit and satire in barroom story telling. He died in the fall of 1820.

ORSAMUS C. MERRILL was born June 18, 1775, came to Bennington about the year 1800, and was admitted to the bar in June 1804. He is still living, yet his advanced age and retirement from the cares of life is thought to make it not improper to say that he long enjoyed the confidence of his fellow citizens of the town and state. He was for several years Post Master, a Lieut. Colonel in the army during the war of 1812, a member of Congress in 1817-18 and 19, and was afterwards a member of the State Council for five years, a representative to the Assembly, and judge of Probate.

CHARLES WRIGHT, son of Solomon Wright of Pownal, was born in 1786, graduated at Williams College, studied law with Chauncey Langdon of Castleton, and was admitted to the bar of Rutland Co. in 1807. He soon after commenced the business of his profession in Bennington, in which he continued until his decease, Feb. 15, 1819. At the time of his death he had the largest and most lucrative practice of any lawyer in the county, and sustained a high reputation for professional talent and integrity.

JAMES HUBBELL, born in Bennington, Oct. 17, 1775, was admitted to the bar in December 1806. He resided in the city of New York for a considerable period, and held the office of magistrate under the appointment of Gov. DeWitt Clinton, which gave him active and responsible employment. He afterwards returned to Bennington, and died here April 21, 1840.

TRUMAN SQUIER came to Bennington to reside in 1810. He was born at Woodbury, Conn., in January, 1764, was in the practice of law at Manchester for several years prior to and after the year 1800, where he held the office of States Attorney 2 years, Judge of Probate 3 years from 1798, and was also Secretary to the Governor and Council for several years. He was a good lawyer and an upright man, and died in the respect and confidence of all, May 21, 1845.

THOMAS J. WRIGHT, a brother of Charles Wright before mentioned, was admitted to the bar of the County Court in June, 1812, and died in 1813.

MARSHALL CARTER, a young man of much talent and professional promise, born in Charlemont, Mass., studied law with Charles Wright, and was admitted to the bar in 1817. He was long in feeble health, and died Sept. 5, 1820, aged 31.

DANIEL CHURCH came from Arlington to Bennington to practice law, in the year 1820 or 1821, and remained here until about the year 1830, when he removed from the state, and died soon after.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

INTRODUCTORY.

The following Biographical Sketches embrace only deceased persons who were inhabitants of Bennington. Those deceased individuals, who were considered most prominent in their professional characters, have been mentioned under the respective heads of Ecclesiastical history, Physicians and Attorneys at Law. These sketches are necessarily mere skeleton notices. If time and space had permitted, most of these might have been made much more interesting and instructive, by fuller and more characteristic details.

Although living residents of the town have been excluded from our biographical notices. It may not, perhaps, be improper to mention the names of some individuals who were natives or descendents of Bennington inhabitants, who have acquired distinction abroad. Those of missionaries, have been already named in our account of ecclesiastical affairs.

Among the natives of this town may be mentioned, ANN C. LYNCH, of literary and poetic celebrity, now the wife of Professor Botta, of New York. The distinguished clergyman and orator, Rev. E. H. CHAPIN, is a son of Bennington.

THOMAS S. FAY, a popular author, and now

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Vermont's First Church

On March 4th, 1991, the two hundredth anniversary of Vermont's admission as a state into the United States of America, Governor Snelling rang the bell in the belfry of Vermont's First Church. That was the signal for bells throughout the state to be rung. This bell, the *oldest* church bell in Vermont was placed in the tower in 1820, a gift from Governor Isaac Tichenor, Vermont's fourth governor.

During Vermont's bicentennial the important place held by the First Church and Bennington was recognized; for it was in the first meeting house of this village, just a few feet from the present church building that Vermont's statehood was formalized.

Bennington has the distinction of another "first". It was the first area in the New Hampshire Grants, that new Hampshire's colonial governor, Benning Wentworth, laid out in town-size sections to be sold. He very proudly named this area in the southwestern part of the Grants for himself — Bennington. Unfortunately he was careless about surveying, and those who purchased the land acquired a problem, as the colony of New York claimed much of this section of land as far east as the Connecticut River. This problem was to haunt the early Bennington settler until it was finally solved by paying off New York claims when Vermont became a state.

Although the sale of land in the Grants had begun in 1749, the settlements in Bennington were delayed by the European war with its tentacles stretching to the colonial possessions of France and England. France with its Indian allies, had used Vermont's valleys and waterways as a battleground against the English Forts. The French and Indian War, as it was called on this side of the Atlantic, made establishing homes and villages very open to pillage and death. The defeat of France and her allies made possible the westward movement of the American Colonists.

The need for that westward expansion was evident in the hunger for land. It was one hundred and forty years since the Pilgrims first set foot on New England's rocky shores. The shallow soil, poor farming methods, and increase in population had taken their toll. The younger sons of farming families especially had a great need for new land to support their families.

There was a religious hunger, too. Just as the land had lost its fertility, the desire for religious freedom, which had inspired the sailing to a new world, had been weakened by time and complacency. Aroused to a need for revitalizing their churches by the preaching of Jonathan Edwards and the English revivalist Whitfield, many Church members became followers of the "Great Awakening". The movement created an exodus by these followers of the "New Light" from established Churches. It was such groups of "Separatists" who became the first settlers in Vermont.

Captain Samuel Robinson, a Separatist from the Church in Hardwicke, Massachusetts, who, freed from the fighting in Canada, was making his way home. He mistook the Walloomsac River for a tributary of the Hudson River, which he had planned to follow southward, and thus was led to the southwestern corner of the New Hampshire Grants. Impressed with the untouched beauty of the valley he resolved to bring his family and "Separatist" friends to this area to start new communities built around their religious beliefs.

He put his resolve into action by seeking out those who had purchased the lands in the Town of Bennington. Acting as an agent for his family members and friends he was able to buy the land and also some of the land grants in the Town of Pownal.

In 1761, these stalwart souls began leaving their homes in Massachusetts and Connecticut: the Robinsons, Harwoods, Pratts, Fausetts, Saffords, Smiths, Burnhams, Roods, Fields, Montagnes, Atwoods. Those were some of the first families to undertake the adventure of estabishing a community and a Church.

Benning Wentworth had had a modern idea of establishing planned communities, with land set aside in the center of towns for villages; and land set aside in the villages for schools, churches, and homes for the ministers. The rule for these communities was theocracy with Church and State one, and members of the Churches to be the governing Proprietors of the communities.

At the first meeting of the Bennington Proprietors on February 1, 1762, the site for the Meeting House was established. The Proprietors were given permission by the Colonial Legislature of New Hampshire to collect a tax of $6.00 from each landowner to finance the building of the Meeting House. It was built between 1763 and 1765, at a cost of $384, and housed the school on the second floor of the vestibule. The building served for all

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meetings of the Proprietors, as well as for some meetings of the Legislature of the Republic of Vermont, when it was established, July 8, 1877, and for Church services.

Before the Meeting House was built, the families, who had come from congregations in Hardwicke, Massachusetts, and Newint, Connecticut, met on December 3, 1762, and joined their congregations to form the Church of Christ in Bennington. The Convenant of that Church is still part of the Covenant of the present Church Congregation.

In the years following the end of the American Revolution and with the solution of the problems preventing Vermont's admission into the Union, the population of Bennington was approaching three thousand. Still Bennington's only Church, the Meeting House was becoming too small for the growing community.

After many attempts at agreement for the location of a new church, the Proprietors finally settled on a site across the footpath and to the east of the Meeting House. Part of the proposed site had been formerly occupied by a school, Clio Hall, which had burned in 1803. The area did contain graves; some were removed by the families of the deceased, and some may have been left beneath the floor of the new building, a custom much followed in England.

In 1804 the lumber, cut from trees on the surrounding hillsides was brought to the green. The old Meeting House was sold and pulled north to become part of a residence being built on a site of the present Monument Circle.

The Proprietors hired Lavius Fillmore as the builder. He had acquired experience in building several churches in Connecticut before he moved into Vermont. Like many carpenters of that time he relied on Asher Benjamin's *The Country Builder's Assistant* for plans for windows, pulpit, gallery, pews, and columns. Benjamin printed his guide inspired by the work of English architects, in 1797 in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Fillmore had brought Asa Hyde, a skilled craftsman, from Connecticut. Hyde did the hand carving on the pillars and moldings.

Many of the newcomers in Bennington were not Church members, and there was some protest at being taxed for a new structure. Although the state's constitution provided for taxation to support churches, the former union of Church and State was being weakened by the diversity of the new citizens' new religious affiliations. In the final solution a quarter of the total cost of $7,793.20, was paid from taxes and the rest from the sale of the lower pews. (Pages 4-8 not copied.)

Other References:

- **"The Parker Scrapbook With Vital Records of Separate Church 1747-1800"** by Ruby Anderson, 1965, p.24.

  "The little (Separate) Church of Newent (now Lisbon), CT, had a singular history; nearly all its members immigrated to Bennington, Vermont, formed a new settlement there, and gathered again at the same church. They held for a time the anomalous position of fellowship with the Separatists in CT, and with the Congregational Church in the place of their adoption."

- **"Ira Allen Founder of Vermont" Wilbur, Univ. of VT., p.72**

  "In Bennington, The First Congregational Church, organized 1762 largely by members of three Separatist churches in Sunderland, Hardwick, and Westfield, Mass. ..... extreme separatists of Bennington, related to each other by blood and marriage were very clannish ..... a crochety ... lot."

- **"Memorials of A Century" Isaac Jennings, 1869, pp.343-344.**

  "The Bennington Church was alone until April **1827.** It was not designated by any denominational title. Its simple name was **The Church of Christ in Bennington."**

- **Vermont Historical Magazine" pp.162-3** (Was referenced on p.344 of preceeding reference.)

  * "The First Baptist Church was organinized April 11, **1827** in Bennington."

  "The Methodist Church in May 1827."

* **Mary (Cleveland) Lawrence,** widow of John was noted as a member of the Baptist Church. when she died in 1836 in Bennington, VT.

Comment: In Pownal, VT, seven miles from Bennington a Baptist Church had been organized in 1762.

* * **Susannah STANTON,** who married **John LAWRENCE, Jr.,** had a brother **Benjamin STANTON.** Benjamin had a Bible published by Daniel D. Smith, NY, NY., dated **1827.** (Certified **1913** statement by Elmer E. Stanton for Civil War Pension of Calvin P. Stanton, Benjamin's gd.son.) The Stanton per

Susannah's parents **John & Mary (Sherman) STANTON** were Baptists.

The first date in this 1827 bible was Benjamin's birth date of "14th of January on Friday, 1780". (Unpub. MS)

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Some Research On The **First Names**

Of The **Children**

Of

John and **Mary** (Cleveland) **LAWRENCE**

of Bennington, VT.

Ruth LAWRENCE, b11 May 1770

(Her father bought his land in Benn. Vt., 7 May 1770. He came to B. age 22/1768)

[Possibly named after Ruth Cleveland, the wife of Johnson^4 Cleveland Isaac^3, Edw.^{2}, Moses^1) who was in Bennington, VT, **1764**. Johnson was 2nd cousin of Josiah^4 Cleveland, Mary's father (Josiah^3,^{2}, Moses^1), Cleveland Genealogy, pp.152, 160)(Johnson C. in Benn.Vt., 1790 Census.)]

Pitt LAWRENCE

[Might **Pitt** be maiden name of Mary (-) wf. Samuel^4 Lawrence of Norwich, CT, (Isaac^3,^{2}, John^1, ?. (See N.E.H. & Gen.Reg.1886, V40, p208-9.)(**See note bottom this page.**) *

[Pitt, as a first name, was not listed in Cleveland Genealogy Index. Pitt, as a surname, was shown in the Cleveland Genealogy Index.
"**Anne**/5 **Cleaveland** (Benj./4,^{3},Aaron^2,Moses/1) m. **Thos. Pitt.** Both died Nova Scotia; dwelt Horton & Wolfville, Kings Co. (p.122,248,)
Their dau. **Elizabeth/4 Pitts** m. **James LAWRENCE**]

[Pitt as a surname VT Fed. Census.

1790 - only one name in index.:

John Pitts, Townsend Town, Windham Co., VT
2 Males 16 and over
3 Females]

[Frequency of name of **Pitt Laurance/Lawrance/Lawrence** in Fed. Census:
[**Not in any census index thru 1850 for CT, ME, MA*RI, VT. BUT** in **NY**, Madison Co., DeRuyter/1810, Georgetown/1820-1830, the name appears as **P.**, **Pitt** or **Pill LAWRENCE.** In 1840, Geotwn is a **Philo LAWRENCE.** And with Philo live a man and woman ages 60-70. In 1850 & 1860 a **Phila LAWRENCE** (ae77, 87, b.VT) lives w/**Elijah Atkins, Jr. (This Elijah is believed to be the E. Atkins, Jr. living in Benn., Benn.Co., VT in the 1840, census.) Atkins** may have been **Phila's** maiden name. **Note: John LAWRENCE** had a gd.s. Pitt Lawrence whose name begins in 1840, Oakland Co., **Mich.**]

John LAWRENCE (d.young)

[Possibly after his father, John.)

Sarah LAWRENCE (d.young)

[Possibly after Mary's mother Sarah (Lawrence) Cleveland, or Mary's sister, Sarah, of Canterbury, CT, who never married.] (p.160)

Lydia LAWRENCE

[Possibly after another of Mary's sisters.] (p.160)

Sarah LAWRENCE

[Possibly after the first Sarah who died young; a common practice in families in those days.]

Mary LAWRENCE

[Possibly after Mary, her mother, and John's sister Mary.]

John LAWRENCE, Jr.

(Jr. in DAR application)

[Possibly after the first John who died young.]

Samuel LAWRENCE

[Possibly after a relative, or good friend.]

Alice LAWRENCE

[Possibly after Mary's mother's step-sister Alice (Lawrence) Cleveland who m. Elijah/4 (Jos.3, Samuel^2, Moses/1)(p.137); or friend.]

[Note: **Alice**'s name does **not** show **in** the **Fleta L. Trask, DAR** application, but she was listed as John Lawrence's daughter in his will of 1815, as Alice Wager.

Also, her name was shown as daughter in "mug book", Oakland County, Mich., as were all the other siblings above.]

July 1815

References: **John LAWRENCE** Will, Benn.Town Record,Bk.12,pp371-372;(John & Sarah deceased not named.)

"Cleveland Genealogy", (pages in ( ) above)

"History Of The Town Of Medfield, Mass., 1650-1886" Edited by Wm. S. Tilden, 1887, pp.401,424, 440, had **Jonathan LAWRENCE** who married **Hannah ROBBINS** of Walpole, Mass. in **1738.**

* "He is said to have gone to **Nova Scotia,** where he died", "About 1761, sold his Medfield land to Asa Hamant." "His widow **Hannah** returned to Walpole, where she was supported by the town."

"Portrait & Biographical Album, Oakland Co., Mich., 1885", pub. 1891, Part II, pp781-782.

Comment by researcher: It appears Mary Lawrence named the daughters; John Lawrence named the sons.

I am a descendant of **Ruth LAWRENCE.** The one remaining unproved family story that was handed down by my 2nd gt.gd.mother Elizabeth (Stanton) Martin who raised my gd.mo. Sarah Ann Martin, was that some relative gave up an inheritance in **Halifax.** (The other proved stories are that Edwin Stanton of Lincoln's cabinet was a relative; that Gen. Wm. T. Sherman of Civil War was a relative; and that a relative was part of the Underground Railroad in Civl War times. This last was Israel Palmer of Cortland Co., NY.) I may yet prove the Halifax story.

Ruth A. Hoeper
Arlington, VA 1993

***(MA/P.D./1850 Cen)**

(Note: Elizabeth B.J. Fowler, of **Ruth L.**, **after seeing Will & V.40 in 1996,** made comment on **Pitt L.**)

'59 and '56, the same fever returned, but was only in one family each year, and there were but 5 deaths. The place is in general very healthy, and the only physician, Dr. Marden, works on a farm.

COUNTRY LIFE—[An Extract.]

To wield the hammer—swing the scythe and flail,
Our Farmers and Mechanics, not ashamed,
Toil late and early, braving storms and gale
To gain a competence—a "living," *not a name.*

A School-house can be found in every ville,
Where knowledge is dispensed with liberal hand,
And scores of boys and girls, with earnest will
Are striving well in learning's foremost ranks to stand.

MISS MARY A. SIMONDS.

[Miss Haynes informs us by letter, that she would acknowledge the kind assistance of Hon. Ira K. Bechelder, helping her gather and collate from the records of the town, data, &c., for her historical account of Peru.—*Ed.*]

POWNAL.

BY T. E. BROWNELL, ESQ.

The Town of Pownal occupies the S. W. corner of Vermont, bordering upon the States of New York and Massachusetts on the W. and S.; upon the Towns of Stamford and Bennington on the E. and N. It containes 23,040 acres, and is watered principally by the rivers Walloomsock and Hoosic. The one, taking its source on the side of the Green Mountains, passes through that portion of the town contiguous to the range; the other, leaving the marshes of Cheshire, Mass., finds its way to the Hudson through the beautiful valley of its own name. On the banks of the latter stream are situated some of the finest farms, rivaling in fertility any within the State. And here industry, ever ready to bring the forces of nature into submission, has built up large woolen manufactories, which command superior advantages, in their locality and privileges.

This valley of the Hoosic lies in three different States, and is remarkable for its warmth. Especially in Pownal, because of its narrowness and the high hills and ledges of rocks, which form its sides, thus providing a large reflecting surface, is this peculiarity noticeable. A few days of good sleighing is all that is expected. The scenery is bold and attractive, possessing elements of beauty and sublimity. Iron ore in moderate quantities, has been found. Kaolin also is found, but not to a large amount. White clay appears in the vicinity of the Chalk Pond. Lime rock of the best kind is abundant. Sulphuret of iron is found upon Mr. Nathan Varin's farm and elsewhere. Silex, clay, slate, boulders, silex slate, crystals of silex, also of lime, marble and quartz, appear in different quantities. An aqueous formation of lime and slate gravel, (commonly called pudding-stone,) appears at the "dug way," between Pownal and Williamstown. From these rocks which partially overhang the highway, there is a continual dropping of water, which the driest summer is unable to check. On account of this, they have been appropriately named the "weeping rocks." The Williams Quarterly furnishes the following tradition.

"Long before the foot of the white man trod these valleys, or his axe rang in the aged forest which once waved around this spot, an Indian Tribe sought refuge in this region from the persecution of their powerful enemies. They had a tradition that they should never be totally conquered until *the rocks wept.* The meaning they attached to the prediction was that they should always endure; and this confidence sustained them in many reverses of fortune. When they arrived at the place we have described, however, they observed with terror the apparent fulfilment of the fatal prediction, and at once yielded to despair. The pursuers were close at hand, and falling upon the unresisting fugitives, completely exterminated the whole tribe."

The similarity of this prediction, and of the results of its apparent fulfilment, to that introduced by Shakspear into his play of Macbeth, gave rise to a poem, of which the following are extracts:

"Macbeth shall never vanquished be, until
Great Burnham wood to high Dunsinane Hill
Shall come against him." MACBETH.

"I sat, a boy, on a chieftain's knee,
In the shade of the graceful maple tree;
We have laid him since in his narrow bed,
Where he will not awake at the foeman's tread;
I listened close to the tales he told,
Of the valliant deeds of our sires of old."

Again the glory of his tribe in the brave and beautiful bygone he rehearsed, and this tradition told—this prophecy of old—

"What if the foeman follow on?
What if our valiant chiefs are gone?
What if our wigwams rise no more
On the forest verge and smooth lake shore?
Yet never may we to a foeman yield
In the woodland glade or the open field,
Till the rocks shall weep our nation's woe,
And tear-drops sad from the mountains flow.

* * * * * *

The war-whoop pierced through the fated wood,
Where the foeman thirsted hot for blood.
Yet never it woke the Indian fire
Whose ears still rang with the sentence dire—
Yet never they raised an impious hand,
The fates had spoken—their word must stand—

Here mourn the ra
And tear-drops fro

* *

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atrocities of a savage
mothers, wives and
hands of merciless heath
Their spirits were equa
their minds were
truth, a startling and
turned away in disdain
ideas

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Here mourn the rocks a nation's woe,
And tear-drops from the mountains flow.
* * * * * * *

Silent they fall at their chieftain's side,
And Hoosic blushed with the purple tide—
Not a groan was heard, not a tear was shed,
But the rocks bewailed a nation's dead."

The western part of the town suffered early from the frequent incursions of the Indians: probably war parties, which acted under the leadership of the French. For the protection of her people Massachusetts erected two forts in Adams and Williamstown, near the south line of this township. The site of one of these forts is still pointed out. Certain spots where Indian relics have been most numerous, are regarded as the winter rendezvous of their early parties. Among the most manifest of these, are the nursery yard of Alonzo Whipple, the warm, sandy knoll near the residence of Moses Whipple, the "wash-tub grove" and Nathan Varin's farm. It is said a planting-ground was also marked out by them upon lands subsequently occupied by the Burnes, and which are now in the farm of Alonzo Whipple, Esq.

The first record of any settlement, dates back to the year 1724, when a few Dutch families squatted upon the banks of the Hoosic river, without any title to the land. Who they were is not known. But some years afterwards, the names of Gregor, Van Norman, Anderson, Westenhouse, Forsburg, Voss and Sebastian Deal appear in connection with lands subsequently claimed under patents originating in New York, and which titles on the remeasurements of their limits were extended into the town of Pownal about three miles on its western part. (Allen's History.)

These early settlers were pioneers of the first quality; and if their hearts, in most cases, did not sympathize with the republicans of 1776, it was because they were satisfied through their strong conservative predjudices, to continue in their old habits of thought. They had not the warm blood of the Anglo-Saxon, and were incapable of being moved to rebellion by his independent hopes, or of being actuated by the *baser* motives of foryism. They desired a new home, and sought it in the deep solitude of endless forests, amid dangers incalculable. They could endure sufferings of fatigue and submit to the pains of hunger; they could witness the atrocities of a savage foe, and see children, mothers, wives and husbands butchered by the hands of merciless heathen; and yet persevere. Their spirits were equal to this. But when their minds were required to grapple a new truth, a startling and innovating principle, they turned away in disdain. By it, they saw old ideas, which they cherished, rejected, Kings, whom they adored, insulted and despised, and fathers whom they loved, mocked. Surely custom and association have strange powers! Let us not forget the virtues of these early settlers in the contemplation of their defects.

The Forsburgs settled upon the lands now owned by Green Brimmer; they have no family representatives now living in town. Hogle and Sebastian Deal occupied the lands now held by Mrs. Bovie. The former was killed by the Indians. He left a wife and son.—Deal married his widow, and succeeded to his possessions.

The Burnes took possession of the lands contained in the farms of the Whipples and Hiram Hovey, Esq. Tradition gives the following story. It seems that the two brothers were boring in their fields, near the river, when looking up they discovered their barn to be on fire. One immediately accused the other of setting the fire by his pipe. He denied it, stating that he had not been to the barn with his pipe lighted. Upon this they both hastened toward the house, and when within sight, discovered, standing in the door, what appeared to be guns. They simultaneously thought of Indians, and in their fright separated; one going north, ascended the rocky hill east of the present highway, and directed his course to the Massachusetts fort. The other, turning towards the river, ran up the stream, and when he had arrived at the bend of the river near the spot now occupied by the Rail Road bridge, he was so unfortunate as to meet a party of Indians, who immediately gave chase. He succeeded in reaching the water, and was enabled to secrete himself in some heaps of floodwood, where he remained until morning, when he continued his way to the fort without further molestation. There he met his brother who had supposed him killed. In after years he spoke of his impressions while the Indians passed near and over his hiding place, and that he so feared they would hear his heart beat, that he came near risking a flight.

In 1794 and 1800, these lands were deeded by Wheeler and Richard Brown to Zachias Hovey, Esq.

Westenhouse took the farm which still holds his name on the west side of the river, nearly opposite the factory.

Gregor settled a little north of the rocks which bear his name. A very good story, the truth of which we do not vouch, is told of his wife, who, from the testimony of her neighbors, was an extraordinary woman. This of course brought upon her the envy and suspicion of the good people; and in after years, when witchcraft prevailed, and her husband had [illegible]

Genealogy in Bennington County, Vermont

Town of Pownal

Information

Pownal lies in the southwestern part of Bennington County and is roughly bounded by Hoosick (*in Rensselaer County, New York*) on the northwest, Bennington on the north, Woodford on the northeast, Stamford on the east, Clarksburg on the southeast, Williamstown on the south (*the preceding two towns in Berkshire County, Massachusetts*), and Petersburg (*in Rensselaer County, New York*) on the west. Pownal was chartered January 8, 1760 and settled in 1762. The town of Pownal includes the locales of North Pownal, Pownal, and Pownal Center.

In 1853, Zadock Thompson described the town of Pownal as follows:

> POWNAL, a post town in the southwest corner of Bennington county and southwest corner of the state, is in lat. 42° 47' and long. 3° 54' and is bounded north by Bennington, east by Stamford, south by Williamstown, Mass., and west by Hoosic, N.Y. It lies 56 miles southwesterly from Rutland and 30 west from Brattleboro'. It was chartered Jan. 8, 1760, and contains about 25,000 acres. The settlement of this township, under the New Hampshire charter, was commenced in the spring of 1762, there being at the time 4 or 5 Dutch families within the limits of the township, claiming under the "Hoosic Patent," granted by the government of New York. Among the early settlers of the town were the families of Wright, Gardner, Morgan, Dunham, Noble, Card, Curtis, Watson, and Seelye, but the precise time when they severally came into the town is not ascertained. In 1791 it was the third in Bennington county, and the fifth in the state, in point of population, containing at that time 1,746 inhabitants. The religious denominations are Baptists, Methodists, and Protestant Methodist. The surface of the township is considerably uneven, but the soil is generally good, and produces plentiful crops. It is well adapted to the production of grain and grass, and here are kept some of the finest dairies in the state. The principal stream is Hoosic river, which is formed here and passes off in a northwesterly direction into the township of Hoosic, N.Y. Along this stream are some rich and beautiful

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In 1934, Zadock Thompson described the town of Pownal as follows:

> POWNAL, a post town in the southwest corner of Bennington county and southwest corner of the state, is in lat. 42°44' and long. 3°34' and is bounded north by Bennington, east by Stamford, south by Williamstown, Mass., and west by Hoosic, N.Y. It lies 56 miles southwesterly from Rutland and 30 west from Brattleboro'. It was chartered Jan. 8, 1760, and contains about 23,000 acres. The settlement of this township, under the New Hampshire charter, was commenced in the spring of 1762, there being at the time 4 or 5 Dutch families within the limits of the township, claiming under the "Hoosic Patent," granted by the government of New York. Among the early settlers of the town were the families of Wright, Gardner, Morgan, Dunham, Noble, Card, Curtis, Watson, and Seelye, but the precise time when they severally came into the town is not ascertained. In 1791 it was the third in Bennington county, and the fifth in the state, in point of population, containing at that time 1,746 inhabitants. The religious denominations are Baptists, Methodists, and Protestant Methodist. The surface of the township is rather hilly, uneven, but the soil is generally good, and produces plentiful crops. It is well adapted to the production of grain and pasture, and there are kept some of the finest dairies in the state. The principal stream is Hoosic river, which is fastened here and passes off in a northwesterly direction into the township of Hoosic, N.Y. Along this stream are some rich and beautiful

Manchester | **Peru** | **Readsboro** | **Rupert** | **Sandgate** | **Searsburg** | **Shaftsbury** | **Stamford** | **Sunderland** | **Winhall** | **Woodford**

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tracts of intervale, and on it are several valuable stands for mills. Some of the head branches of Walloomscoik river rise in the northeastern part of this township, and pass off into Bennington. The town is divided into 13 school districts, and contains a meeting house, situated near the centre, 2 stores, 2 taverns, 2 grist and 5 saw mills, mechanics' shops, &c. *Statistics of* 1840.--Horses, 313; cattle, 1,468; sheep, 9,540; swine, 1,169; wheat, bus. 1,075; barley, 150; oats, 20,891; rye, 4,057; buckwheat, 1,072; Ind. corn, 11,147; potatoes, 28,215; hay, tons, 3,164; sugar, lbs. 6,087; wool, 22,367. Population, 1,613.

(Source: Thompson, Zadock, 1796-1856. *History of Vermont* : natural, civil, and statistical ... / by Zadock Thompson. -- Burlington : Z. Thompson, 1853. -- pt. 3, p. 144-145)

Genealogical Resources

The following resources may provide information useful in researching Pownal families.

- **Genealogical Resource Guide**
- **Online Sources and Bibliography**

General Information

The following resources may provide useful information on the Pownal town area.

- **Link Vermont - Bennington / Arlington Area**
- **Virtual Vermont Internet Magazine - Pownal**

Related Pages

- **Genealogy in Bennington County, Vermont**
- **Genealogy in Bennington County, Vermont - Town of ...**

Arlington | **Bennington** | **Dorset** | **Glastenbury** | **Landgrove** |

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"Vermont Historical Gazeteer" by Abby M. Hemenway, pub. 1868, Vol.I
Pub.1868.

his long rest, she was accused of being a witch, and brought before a committee, appointed to judge and dispense justice in such cases. After reviewing the grounds of accusation, and consulting the evidences of the case, they deferred a direct decision, and required that she be subjected to two tests, in order that they might better determine the points of witchery: First, that she should climb a tree, and if upon cutting it, she was not killed, she was a witch, otherwise not. Second, that a hole be cut in the ice, sufficient to let her body through, and if, upon trial, she sunk to the bottom, an acquital should be granted; but if she floated, the penalty of the law should be visited upon her. After some deliberation, they adopted the latter test, and the poor woman was obliged to undergo the process of sinking, which of course she did. With much effort she was saved from drowning, and allowed to go free, with the wise conclusion of the judge, that if she had been a witch the powers infernal would have supported her.

Somewhat later, the southwestern part of the town was settled by Youngs, Van Norman, Anderson and Fisher. Most of these claims were purchased by new comers, who held them under the grant of 1760. This grant, which proceeded from Gov. Wentworth of New Hampshire, was dated the 8th of Jan., but no one took up any lands under it until about 1762. Then indeed the counterclaims of New York, which had been gradually intruded, were urged with renewed zeal. In 1764, Jona Horsford and Isaac Charles held titles from New Hampshire to the same lands that Voss and Deal possessed, and obtained authority from Justice Samuel Robinson of Bennington, to secure their rights. Accompanied by one Sheriff Ashley, they proceeded to hasten the execution of the law, when suddenly the Sheriff of Albany opposed their proceedings, and, by the aid of his assistants, lodged Robinson, Ashley and Charles in jail. But as it was a case of conflicting jurisdiction, the parties, being allowed bail, were eventually discharged.

These counter-claims continued to be the source of embarrassment long after the year 1800. In 1786, an effort was made by certain land holders to dispossess the occupants of these dubious possessions, of their property. A suit had been brought by Gen. Josiah Wright and Page, against Joseph Wheeler and Amos Potter, for the title of their farms. The authority of the former originated from this ancient New York patent, concerning, which a statute of limitation had been made, which required all persons this side of the great waters, who held adverse claims, to close them before a certain determinate date. The aforesaid case happened to come on the last day of the appointed term. But however law-abiding the defendents in this case may otherwise have been, they determined that the "Freehold Court" should not assemble on that day; and accordingly, two parties of fictitious Indians were organized on the morning of said day, one of which was to keep their neighbors under the restraint of fear, while the other should hold the officials, whom they supposed would cross the mountains from Bennington. Nathan Clark and Isaac Tichenor were the victims of this conspiracy, and were seized on their way hither, carried to the top of the mountain, and there kept under arrest until after the term of the statute had expired. David Stannard was the "Captain Pete" of this band of Indians. The Sheriff was suffered to escape, when he at once hastened to the place of court. But the Indians who had charge of the neighborhood, threatened so loudly that he was sobered in his blustering. It is enough to say the plan was entirely successful. The day had passed, the imprisoned officials were released, and no court was held. An attempt was made to apprehend the actors in this farce, but as no identity of persons could be proved, the matter was dropped. The young men, however, for a long time, had always a sly wink to exchange whenever an allusion was made to the affair. But they have lived, as others lived, have grown old, recited the tales of their early valor, and have died, while we their children remain to enjoy the fruits of their mischief.

In 1762, strangers came in to take up new claims under the grant. They moved back towards the mountains, and selected farms near the limits of the town. John Potter settled upon the "Watson place." He came from Rhode Island, poor and friendless, and had chosen a lonely place, but he was equal to his fortune. He had come on foot, while his wife rode on horseback with a feather bed and sheet for a saddle.

Jonathan Card located upon the lands now owned by Abram Gardner, Esq. A bear story is told of his wife. She was at dinner when one of her children announced the presence of a bear in the "hog-pen." She seized a pitchfork, placed by chance near the door way, hastened to the pen, and dispatched the unwelcome tenant at one blow. The hunters from whom the bear was escaping, arriving soon after, *magnanimously* rewarded her heroism with a small portion of the meat.

In 1763, Charles Wright came up from fort Massachusetts. He had three sons, Samuel, Josiah and Soloman. Samuel moved to Canada and died while on a visit to his son at Ogdens-

burg, N. Y. Josiah and Solomon lived and died in town. Several of their children are still living. Judge Samuel Wright is the son of Gen. Josiah Wright, and is 84 years of age. Capt. Samuel Wright and Obadiah Dunham were the delegates from Pownal to the General Convention held at Dorset, Sept. 5, 1776.

About the year 1765, Noble, Geo. Gardner, Wittum, Mallory and Benj. Grover, took up their residence in town.

Geo. Gardner, Esq., was 14 days moving from Hancock, Mass., to Pownal. He lived to the age of 114 years. At the age of 85, he planted an apple nursery, which he lived to see bear fruit. His daughter, afterwards the wife of Wm. B. Sherman, was the first English child born in Pownal.

Benj. Grover preached the first sermon in town. From the rearing of new homes, our fathers were soon called to their protection.

In the summer of 1777, Burgoyne hastened from the north to make a junction with Gen. Clinton. Arrived at Saratoga, the military stores at Bennington attracted his greedy attention. Hessian soldiers were immediately dispatched, but the disciplined forces were conquered by our militia under Gen. Stark. Certainly after the battle every one had his exploits and narrow escapes to relate. The tories had expressed their hostility to the popular cause by uniting with the enemy. Deal, Hogle, and Forsburg took their station behind the breast work of the British. It appears that Forsburgh for some cause or other had been delinquent, and did not arrive on the field of battle until after the action had commenced. He proceeded at once to the place occupied by Deal, and was about to greet him with a cordial shake of the hand, when the latter indignant at his delay, struck at him with a knife. This created a feud between them which lasted till death.

Another who was afflicted with the same tory defect, in after years told a very good story of himself. When the route of the enemy was complete, and the tories were scattered in every direction, hotly pursued by enraged victors, he found himself during this race, so near his pursuers that it became extremely dangerous to keep the open field. Anxious for a place of concealment, he at last ventured to stoop behind a heap of logs. But hardly had he secured an easy position, and was congratulating himself upon a sure escape, when the whistling of bullets and showers of bark, revealed the weakness of his hiding place, and obliged him to attempt a flight. Once more being considerable in advance of his pursuers, he sought another refuge within a thicket; but the sudden falling of a twig, in close proximity to his nose, admonished him of danger, and again he hastened flight. For several minutes he urged his speed, and was beginning to experience hopes of escape, when a bullet nicely severed his hat ribbon. Despairing any longer of success, he gave himself up a prisoner of war.

Squire Nathaniel Wallace has told his expeience. He was a patriot, earnest and true, and presented himself at the post of duty upon the first threatening of danger. When the battle was well commenced, and the tories from behind their breastwork were exulting in apparent victory, Wallace with a few companions took up their station upon a pile of chips in front of the enemies' line. He afterwards described their works as being formed of stakes and pieces of timber set close together at the bottom, so as to be impenetrable to bullets, while the tops diverged, thus leaving a space for the soldiers to direct their fire. Upon the inside at the foot of the upright timbers, was thrown up a platform of logs and earth which was high enough to enable the combatants to bring their faces up to the apperture. Here they discharged their guns, stepped down from this elevation, and no longer exposed to danger, re-loaded their pieces.

At one of these appertures, Wallace had noticed a young man, wearing a white neck-tie, appear several times. Finally resolved upon his destruction, he arranged his rifle and awaited his re-appearance. After the usual interval of time for loading had expired, the opening was again filled by the same young looking face; but before he had marked his victim, Wallace pulled the trigger, and the space was once more empty. After the order to charge had been executed with perfect success, Wallace went to the position opposite the pile of chips, identified the body of the young man measured the distance to his former standing-place, which proved to be 30 yards.

Forsburgh affirmed, after the battle, that young Hogle stood near him behind the breastwork, and wore a white neck-tie, and that when, at one time he was about to discharge his piece, he saw instantly a bright blue spot appear in the centre of his forehead and Hogle fell back upon the ground a dead man. Before and during this action, consternation was upon the countenance of every one. They feared yet they dared—women and children left their homes, and retired to places of security. But if doubt and trepidation had prevailed before the contest, joy and jubilee were abundant afterwards. Meetings of rejoicing were held at the south part of the town, and articles of proscription against the tories were read and approved. And for many subsequent years, up

on any public occasion, they were made the subject of reproach and ridicule. One was left hanging upon a stake by the leather waistband of his breeches. Another received an application of the "Beach seal;" and even so, a spirit of hostility and contempt always existed towards them while they lived. But they have returned to their original dust, as the patriots have, and their children live, good and loyal citizens. Prominent among those who responded, from Pownal, to the general call of freedom was Capt. Angel, who had accompanied Arnold's expedition to Quebec.

In the absence of a legitimate government a committee of "Public Safety" was appointed, whose duty it was to adjust such points of difference as might from time to time arise among the people, and also to superintend the police of the town. This "committee," although originally calculated to meet a present exigency, soon became an indispensable branch of government. Its members, three in number, possessed almost absolute power. Their decisions, although generally just and impartial, were occasionally tinctured with caprice and favoritism. Thus when composed of Jewett, Seely and Dunning, as its members, a complaint was whispered about that they always decided in favor of the plaintiff, and unless they improved their style of deciding, a new board should be appointed. It is said that embarrassed by such slanderous reports, and intimidated by these threats, a consultation was held, and a new mode of procedure was adopted. It was determined that future decisions should be rendered in favor of the defendant. Stimulated by these deliberations, equanimity was once more attained; but the first application of this new rule incurred a new difficulty. The case was this. A man was arraigned for stealing a harrow. The day of trial came; witnesses were present; the court opened, when the defendant unexpectedly plead guilty to the offence, with the explanation that his intention was only to use the harrow, and return it before the owner had occasion to use it. Here appeared a perplexing question. How could they favor the defendant? He had admitted the theft without compulsion. However, after some deliberation, they agreed upon a decision, remarkable for its ingenuity and justice. It was decided that the defendant should return the harrow and pay for the use of it, while the plaintiff should pay the costs because he had neglected to prove his charge.

In these days certain parts of the town were haunts for rattlesnakes. Among these, the high and frowning cliffs, which skirt the river by the near the manufacturing village of North Pownal, were the chosen rendezvous of these dangerous pests. Here they wintered, and at early spring, slipped forth from their dens, scattered themselves about the neighboring fields. A capacious "snake story" survived the final extermination of the reptiles. Benona Hudson, upon one autumn morning, seeing a large rattlesnake cross the river from its western banks, roll itself in the sand, and hasten toward the rocks; followed close after and watched him as he entered his den. He at once proceeded to cut a short walnut cudgel and a stout pole, with which he instantly invaded the strong retreat of the snake. Forthwith there was a hissing and a promiscuous crawling forth. Rapidly the blows descended and all were dispatched. Upon counting he found *eighty-seven*. Thus much says tradition; but it does not add, as did the Mississippian, who told of killing four cords and a half of black snakes between sunrise and sunset, that "*it was not a good snake day, either.*"

Still later another incident occurred, which found its way into a Virginian paper, under the title of "Sam Patch Outdone." One "Nabbie Ross," whose parents resided upon the eastern side of the hills, had been to the factory on some trading errand, and was returning with a bundle of "rolls," by way of the "rocks," which was considerable nearer. When near the summit, attracted by the river and village below, she ventured to look over the cliff. Loosing her balance, she fell to the ground beneath. The villagers seeing her hurrying through the air, hastened to the spot, expecting to find her bruised into pieces. Imagine their surprise when instead of a mangled mass, they found "Nabbie," alive, without any serious injury, and not a little perplexed at her uncouth predicament. Upon measurement, they found she had fallen the distance of 79 feet.

The old church at the "Centre" was erected in 1789, by Capt. Gvaitt, who arrived in town in 1780.

The first ordained minister was Elder Caleb Nemous, who moved to Pownal in 1788, "Bringing with him not only fair paper credentials, but what far exceeds, a heart glowing with love to God and man; and now instead of using his violin to captivate the thoughtless throng, he is engaged with successful zeal in sounding the gospel trumpet. His life and conversation are exemplary, his preaching spiritual and estimating, pretty full of the musical *new light* tone. But his gift of prayer is his excellence; for he not only prays as if he was climing Jacob's ladder to the portals of heaven; but his expressions are so doctrinal, that a good sermon may be heard in one of his pray-

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ers." The following inscription appears on his tombstone. "Sacred to the memory of faithful service as a minister and watchman over the first Baptist church in Pownal, departed this life on the 27th of February, 1804, in the 61st year of his age." He was born in Exeter, R. I., on the 12th of March, 1743.

Since that time the number of churches has increased, so that now there are three or four; one Union, one Baptist, a Methodist, and a Congregational.

Dr. Caleb Gibbs died Jan. 31, 1813, aged 55 years. Dr. Bonister died April 6, 1824, aged 65. Dr E. N. S. Morgan is the present physician. He received his degree of M. D., at Pittsfield, Mass. The following names appear in Williams' College Catalogue: Charles Wright, Thomas Wright, Lyman Thompson, Seth Moore, E. N. S. Morgan. M. Barber, T. E. Brownell, D. Barber, S. Wright. Seth Moore died Nov. 5, 1825, in the 24th year of his age. Dr. B. F. Morgan received his M. D. degree at Castleton. He is now a prominent physician at Bennington.

In 1812, a company of soldiers was enlisted in Pownal, to serve in the war, commanded by Capt. Danforth. Since then the general character of Pownal has improved with other towns. Gradually the gloom of forests have given way to pleasant homes and fertile farms. Enterprise and thrift are prominent features, while the efforts of a true and undefiled religion are hastening to correct discord and introduce an universal harmony.

[May 8, 1763, is the date of the first meeting on record for the election of town officers; Asa Alger, first Town Clerk; John Vanerum, Constable; Edmond Town, Asa Alger and Jabez Warren, Selectmen. Erastus Jewett was Town Clerk 13 years, and Silvanus Danforth, (in 1852) 17 years. Thomas Jewett, Joseph Williams and Eli Noble were the first Justices. Others, Josiah Wright, 24 years; Obediah Dunham 20; Nathan Varian 19; Silvanus Danforth 16; Sebastian Wager 16; Samuel Wright 15; and Blackmer E. Brownell 12. Thomas Jewett was the first Representative, March, 1798. —ED.]

In point of population, Pownal was the third town in the County and the fifth in the State, in 1791. [See Deming and Thompson.]

ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHY.

BY HON. HILAND HALL.

GEN. JOSIAH WRIGHT and JUDGE SOLOMON WRIGHT, sons of Charles Wright, one of the early settlers of Pownal, long occupied prominent positions in the town. Josiah Wright was born in 1752, and Solomon in Fort Hoosic, near North Adams, Dec. 28, 1763. Both were whigs in the revolution, Josiah participating in the battle of Bennington, and Solomon, when of sufficient age, serving on the frontier, at Rutland and Pittsford, towards the close of the war. Both were men of great natural talent and shrewdness, and possessing sound and discriminating judgments and determined wills, were well calculated to lead in all matters in which they respectively took part.

When political parties took a distinct organization, in time of the elder Adams, the brothers differed in sentiment, Josiah uniting with the republicans, and Solomon with the federalists, and each becoming the acknowledged leader of the party to which he was attached, each as the party predominated, exerting an important influence in the affairs of the County and State. They not only belonged to rival parties, but were rival candidates, and the strife thereby occasioned is said to have sometimes degenerated into personal unfriendliness. There is however the best reason for believing, that if such ill feeling did exist, it was happily removed before the death of either.

Gen. JOSIAH WRIGHT belonged to the political party which was usually the strongest, and was much more in public life than his brother. Before political parties had assumed a definite form, he was, in 1792, elected a representative of the town, and he was re-chosen every year thereafter until 1803, with the exception of 1796. He was Judge of Probate 13 years in succession, from 1801, and he was, at the time of his death, which occurred Jan. 1, 1817, a State Councillor and Chief Judge of the County Court, having been a member of the Council for 16, and Judge of the Court 8 years. He was one of the Board of Commissioners appointed by the Legislature, in 1807, for the erection of the State Prison, and is believed to have been the active agent and superintendent in its construction. His name also headed the list of Presidential Electors of the State in 1805 and 1813, voting, on the first occasion, for Thomas Jefferson, and on the last for James Madison.

At the age of 65, he was in the vigor of health and activity, and lost his life from an injury received in jumping from his carriage near his own door, just as he was starting to attend a session of the County Court at Bennington, in December, 1816—his horse by the breaking of his bits, having become unmanageable. Among several of his children still living, it is not deemed improper to mention the Hon. Samuel Wright, formerly Representative of the town and Judge of the County Court, who, though over 86 years of age, and unfortunately deaf and blind, still retains his interesting conversational powers in their original brightness.

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Researcher:
Ruth A. Hoeper
Nov. 1996
Revised Mar. 1997
Mar.2000

COMMENTS RE:

LAWRENCE FAMILY REUNION

Jan. 18, 1881
Oxford, Mich.

The Brothers and Sistera who attended are known to have been the children of **John & Susannah Stanton Lawrence.** The two sons who were deceased were **Alanson T. Lawrence** in 1866 **& Pitt Lawrence** in 1869. The only brother who did not attend was **Porter J. Lawrence.**

Following is a more detailed description of those in attendance, and possible relationships are given where a relationship is uncertain.

Brothers and Sisters		Wives and Husbands	
Mrs. Daniel Barber (**Hannah J. Lawrence,** b. June 5, 1807, VT)	74	Mr. Daniel Barber	82 RI
Mrs. P. S. Jackson (**Phoebe s. lawrence,** b. Feb.21, 1809, VT	73	(A Calif. cousin has a picture of Phoebe ~~Jackson Lawrence~~ ae 70, Feb.1879, 6' tall.) Lawrence Jackson - I have a 75 y.o. picture RAH.	
Mr. J. C. Lawrence (**John C. Lawrence,** b. Feb. 17, 1811, VT	70	Mrs. J. C. Lawrence (**Betsey ~~Galaspie,~~** GLASPIE b. June 12, 1812, NY	68
Mr. R. J. Lawrence (**Russell J. Lawrence** b. Feb. 22, 1813, NY (deceased)	68	(Wife did not attend.) (Lucinda Thompson Lawrence)	
		Mrs. Pitt Lawrence (**Pernelia Griffin,** b. 1812 /1813, NY	69
Mrs. W. H. Fuller (**Minerva Lawrence** b. June 13, 1817	64, NY	Mr. W(illiam H. Fuller b.July 18, 1813, NY	68
Mr. S. S. Lawrence (**Samuel Stanton Lawrence,** b. Apr. 23, 1824	57, NY	Mrs. S. S. Lawrence (**Almeda Tindall,** b. Dec. 1831, NJ	49
Mr. L. N. Lawrence (**Luman Norton Lawrence,** b. Nov. 23, 1826	55, NY	Mrs. L. N. Norton (**Anna Amanda Jane Allen,** b. c1827, NY	54
CHILDREN OF THE ABOVE			
Mr. **Fernando C. Barber** (s/o Hannah & Daniel) b. Feb. 1825, NY	56	Mrs. Electa E. Barber b. Apr. 1832±, MI	50
Mrs. **Azurah Lawrence Rathbun,** (d/o Russel J.) b. Oct.31, 1839, MI	42	Mr. George Rathbun b. Feb. 1, 1836, MI	45
Mr. **F(rank) Lawrence** (s/o Pitt Lawrence) b. Aug. 1842, MI	39	Mrs. Phoebe D. (?) Lawrence b. June , 1847±, MI	34
?? Mrs. D. Swain (poss.**Mary S.,** b.c1845, (d/o **Pitt Lawrence;**	35	Mr. Delos Swain (A blacksmith in 1870 & 1880 ~~census~~ & lived Oxford, MI.) b. N.Y.	
Mrs. **Martha J. Parish** (d/o Pitt Lawrence) b. c1850, MI	31	Mr. Joseph Parish b. c.1835, NY	45
prob. Mr. **Nehemiah Lawrence** (b.c.1848) - MI (s/o Russel J.; the only son without a middle name.)		Mrs. Lydia C. Lawrence	-
Mrs. Hannah M. Hopkins (b.Dec. 1855,MI) (d/o Fernando Barber; gd.d. Hannah Barber.)	26 MI	Mr. Elmer G. Hopkins b. Sept. 1854, MI	27
		Mrs. C. F. Barber (no knowledge)	

RELATIVES

1.) Mrs. J. C. Lawrence (Betsey) had Galaspi relatives.

2.) The J. Gladden persons - no knowledge.

3.) J. L. Stanton was probably **John Lodowick Stanton,** (s/o Lodowick Stanton who was brother of Susannah Stanton Lawrence) and John Lodowick Stanton was a cousin.

Follow-up research:

1. Did 1870/1880 census survey on the names of Mr D. Swain with a wife whose name may have been Mary S. (The Swains had a son Elmer D., ae5/1870 cen.; dau. Estella C., ae3/1870 cen.)

2. If I have errors, please let me know, or if you have other comments, I'm pleased to have them.

Written notes by R.A.H.

Chapter 26:

Lawrence Family Reunion

Jan. 18, 1901
Saturday, 8:45.

The Lawrence and Oliver who attended are listed in bold so that you can see the distribution of John & Susanna Bishop Lawrence. The two who died this December were Eleanor Ty Lawrence in 1898 & Ethel Lawrence in 1899. The only living child who did not attend was Peter L. Lawrence.

Gathering in a more relaxed manner of those in attendance, and greeting relatives are about some more a relationship to accurate:

Ancestors of Susanna

Mr. Daniel Bishop
(Susan J. Lawrence) b. Jan 3, 1807, VT 70

Mr. P. G. Jackson
(Susan E. Lawrence) d. Dec.21, 1850, VT 70

Mr. L. C. Lawrence
(Jane C. Lawrence) b. Feb. 17, 1812, VT 60

Mr. H. J. Lawrence
(Cornelia L. Lawrence) b. Nov. 27, 1814, NY 64

(deceased)

Mrs. S. M. Fulton
(Susanna Lawrence) b. Nov. 21, 1817 60, NY

Mr. E. E. Lawrence
(Cora) Alanson Lawrence) b. Apr. 22, 1834 57, NY

Mr. E. M. Lawrence
(Lucas Myers Lawrence) b. Nov. 19, 1836 56, NY

Children of the Bride

Mr. Lawrence C. Harris
(Ada Susan J. Daniel) b. Feb. 1859, NY 59

Mrs. Alice Lawrence Fenton
(Alice Susan J.) b. Feb.24, 1863, NY 47

Mr. F(ank) Lawrence
(Ada Pitt Lawrence) b. Aug. 1864, NY 46

Mr. Mr. Frank (Frank.Mary Sa, r-Cliff-)
(Ada Pitt Lawrence)

Mrs. Martha J. Bishop
(Ada Pitt Lawrence) b. 1870, NY 40

Mr. Edwards Lawrence (Dir.Ifad) . NY
(Ada Susan J.) was only son without a wife(s) name.)

Mrs. Hugh M. Hopkins (m.Jan. 1874,NY) 36 NY
(Ada Lawrence Harris, p.2.) Bishop Barber.)

Relatives

1.) Mrs. M. C. Lawrence (Ma ay)(Jane Calvert Lawrence).

2.) The L. Oliver Lawrence - no Lawrence.

3.) J. T. Lawrence was probably John Lawrence Jackson, Julia Lawrence Jackson was her brother or father? Stanford Lawrence and John Lawrence Jackson was a uncle.

Relatives (Continued):

1. Mr. Lawrence (Mrs.Ida) was married to Mr. R. Smith Ella & also Jane was very close friend - Jane C. Lawrence was a cousin Mr. Lawrence C. Harris (Ada Susan J.) was a cousin.

2. If I have number, please let me know, or if you have any other comments, I'm pleased to have them.

Mr. Daniel Bishop 70 NY

(A Cousin, could be a relative of Alanson Lawrence as Mr. Lawrence's father & Mrs. Lawrence's mother was a Mr. & Mrs. L. C. Lawrence.)

Mrs. L. C. Lawrence b. Dec.12, 1812, NY 60
(Mrs. Daniel Bishop)
(Lucy Ann Lawrence)
(Lucy Ann Lawrence)

Mrs. P. G. Lawrence b. 1812 (?)(?), NY 60
(Cornelia Cliffin)

Mr. Mr. William H. Cliffin 5,3012 58, NY 60

Mrs. E. E. Lawrence b. Dec. 1833 57
(Alanson Daniel)

Mr. L. M. Lawrence 56
(Lucas Myers Lucas Allen)

Mr. Lawrence C. Harris b. 1859, NY 59

Mrs. Alice Lawrence Fenton b. 1863, NY 56

Mr. Lawrence Fenton 56

Mr. F. L. 1863, NY 46

Mrs. Martha J. Bishop 40

Mr. Edwards Lawrence 46

Mr. Hugh M. Hopkins 36

Mr. Lucia C. Lawrence

Mr. Elmer G. Hopkins 22
Mrs. G. Y. Barber, Jan 1898, NY

From: Lenna M. Rice Macivor, Henderson, NC, Oct.25, 1996 (d/o Lawrence J. Rice, s/o Jeff. A. Rice, s/o Jay Rice) -1
ville, (m. Carrie Lawrence, d/o Russel J. L.)

#6

House, Oxford, January 15th, proved, to be a very enjoyable time, and of the brothers and sisters alive all were present but one. Their wives and husbands, children and other relatives swelled the number to about thirty. They are nearly all pioneers of Oakland and Macomb counties. The following are the names and ages of those present:

	Brothers and Sisters.	Wives and Husbands.	
74	Mrs. Daniel Barber, 74.	Mr. Daniel Barber, 82.	92
78	Mrs. P. S. Jackson, 73.		
70	Mr. J. C. Lawrence, 70.	Mrs. I. C Lawrence, 69.	69
68	Mr. R. J Lawrence, 68	Mrs. Pitt Lawrence, 68.	68
67	Mrs. W. H. Fuller, 64.	Mr. W. H. Fuller, 68.	68
52	Mr. S. S. Lawrence 57.	Mrs. S. S. Lawrence, 49.	49
54	Mr. L. N. Lawrence, 53.	Mrs. L. N. Lawrence, 54.	54
	CHILDREN OF THE ABOVE.		
56	Mr. F. C. Barber, 56.	Mrs. F. C. Barber, 56.	50
43	Mrs. Geo. Rathbone, 42.	Mr. Geo. Rathbone, 45.	45
39	Mr. F. Lawrence, 39.	Mrs. F. Lawrence, 34.	34
36	Mrs. D. Swain, 35.		
31	Mrs. J. Parrish, 31.	Mrs. J. Parrish, 45.	45
	Mr. N. Lawrence.	Mrs. N. Lawrence	
26	Mrs. E. G. Hopkins, 26.	Mr. E. G. Hopkins. 27.	27
		Mrs. C. F. Barber.	
	RELATIVES.		
75	Mrs. J. Gladden, 70.	Mr. J. Gladden, 76.	75
67	Mrs. David Glaspie, 61.	Mr. David Glaspie, 71.	71
68	Mr. J. L. Stanton, 68		

Soon after 2 o'clock, p. m., we were gathered around the long table. Although age and disease had told heavily upon some, yet the way the good things our host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Hopkins had prepared for us disappeared showed conclusively that though affliction had come upon some, it certainly was not in the stomach. While yet seated around the table, a few remarks were made by brother R. J. Lawrence, who, in refering to the past, spoke of the time—in 1855—when we all stood around the bier of our father; then again of another sad meeting at the bier of our mother in 1861, and still further on at the death beds of two brothers. Here in the light of day these reflections could not fail to bring tears of sadness. After these few remarks prayer was offered, and our sadness was soon forgotten in the many things we had to say and the many inquiries we wished to make before we must seperate. Night soon came, and with it the hearty hand-shaking and God bless you, with our hearts full of love and good wishes for all. If any sadness lurked there it was caused by the thought that we might never all meet again.

#5

Lawrence Family's Reunion.

EDITOR JOURNAL: *Dear Sir*—The reunion of the Lawrence family and their relatives, as announced in your columns to be held at Stanton

#4

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Fuller Green.

Another of the old settlers has passed away. Last Sabbath day, May 8, 1898, at 1 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Fuller Green died. She was born in Spafford, Onondaga county, N. Y., June 13, 1817, was married to Wm. H. Fuller in 1835, and with several of her brothers and sisters moved to Michigan in '37. Elder Fuller and Elder Gardner, who also came from N. Y., were the founders of the Baptist church at this place. For many years Elder Fuller and his wife engaged in the work of the Gospel ministry. On the 17th of April, 1882, Elder Fuller was called to the home above.

In 1884 Mrs. Fuller became the wife of Mr. Green, and for ten years they traveled life's pathway together. Then for the second time she was left a widow. For the past three years she has been very feeble, and during the past 14 weeks has been unable to lie down more than a half hour at a time. But rest came to her at last, and she has gone to join the dear ones on the other side.

She leaves two sisters, one living in Nebraska, and Mrs. Hannah Barber of this place, who is past 90 years of age; two brothers, one living in Battle Creek and the other near Flint.

The funeral services were held at the Baptist church on Monday afternoon and were conducted by the pastor of the church, Francis B. Cutler, who was assisted by Rev. S. Gardner. The sermon was preached from the text John 13:7.

SAMUEL ROBINSON of BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Generation 3
(mar.

Generation 4
(mar. Eunice Homes)

Generation 5
(mar. Heman Hopkins)

PREFACE

The family of Samuel Robinson is the most remarkable among a number of prolific Vermont families important to the State of Vermont. The Robinson family has in the past

two centuries furnished two governors, two United States senators, six judges of one degree or another, the acknowleged leader of the Democratic party in the state in three different generations, and United States marshals, generals, colonels, state's attorneys, town clerks, etc., almost without number.

We are very fortunate to have so much information about this family, which may be one reason that I've become very fond of the family. It was rare in those days, to see so much information about the women of the families, as we have available to us about Marcy Leonard Robinson. That may be one of the reasons, also, that I have become so fond of the Robinson family. Another reason that I have been drawn to this family is because of the information regarding their religious lives, Samuel and Marcy, son Leonard, and grand-daughter, Hannah and so on.

SAMUEL ROBINSON JR.
Generation 3

LEADER OF THE BAND OF PIONEERS IN THE SETTLEMENT OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

SAMUEL ROBINSON JR. was born at Cambridge, Massachusetts 4 April 1707, about the time his father bought a house and property there. Samuel was brought up in the busy, bustling life of his father's tavern. Such an environment certainly had a broadening, stimulating effect on the boy, making him familiar with the prominent men of his time and the events taking place.

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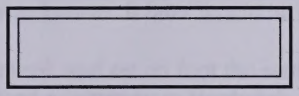
At the age of twenty-five, Samuel married, in May of 1732, **MERCY LEONARD** of Southbury, Massachusetts, the daughter of Moses & Mercy (Newton) Leonard. In 1735 they settled in Hardwick, Worcester Co, Massachusetts, situated about 20 miles northwest of the city of Worcester.



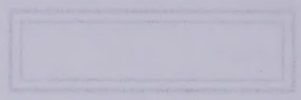
The first settlement of Hardwick was called "Lambstown" after a prominent proprietor. By 1738 it had attracted enough settlers and met all the requirements to be incorporated as the town of Hardwick. The Ware River ran through the east and south parts of the town making an excellent source of water power. Samuel Jr. and Mercy lived in Hardwick for 26 years.

* selectman ten years
* assessor three years
* town-clerk four years
* deacon of the church.

Samuel was a deacon in "the old church", and afterward in the "Separate" church in Hardwick, according to the Rev. Lucius Page in his Hardwick Centennial Address. At this writing, I'm not exactly sure of the difference between the "old church" and the "separate" church. However, it is noted in the published obituary of his son, Leonard, that "he left his native habitation [Hardwick] with his father and others, on account of religious persecution, being of the sect called New Lights or Independents" [emphasis added]. Therefore, we might assume that the "Separate church" was made up of people called the "New Lights".

Samuel Robinson was not only a very religious man, he was also very committed to the protection of the interests of his community. He served for not less than three campaigns in the old French war, as Captain of a military company (1755-1759) in Col. Ruggles's regiment of provincials and served as such on the frontier in 1755 and '56. He was at the head of his company in the battle of Lake George in September 1755, when the French were defeated. On his

At the age of twenty-five, Samuel married, in May of 1722, MERCY LAMB ARD of Southbury, Massachusetts, the daughter of Moses & Mercy (Newton) Leonard. In 1725 they settled in Hardwick, Worcester Co, Massachusetts, situated about 20 miles northwest of the city of Worcester.



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return to Massachusetts from one of his campaigns, mistaking his route, he passed by accident on the Hoosac River route, and was attracted by the fertility of the country and determined to settle there.

Mr. Robinson became strongly attached to the , as the area was known. It later would be called Vermont.

He conceived, organized, and set on foot the settlement of this part of the country. He formed a company at Hardwick, and with others, purchased the rights of the original grantees of lands, took a colony with him, and settled , the first town in what is now Vermont. Jennings' *Memorials of a Century* records that he arrived from Hardwick, Massachusetts, with the first settlers on 18 June 1761.

He was the acknowledged leader in the band of pioneers in the settlement of the town, and continued to exercise almost a controlling influence in its affairs during the remainder of his life. Governor Benning Wentworth commissioned him on 8 February 1762 a justice of the peace, making him the first person that was appointed to a judicial office within the limits of that territory.

Samuel cast in his fortunes with the original settlers of the New Hampshire grants in the famous land grant controversy between New York and New Hampshire, in which New York claimed jurisdiction over the territory that became Vermont.

He was prompt and resolute to resist the claims of New York officials to the lands and jurisdiction of this territory. It was related of him, that when the surveyors came from New York onto his lands, he cut their chain in two with his hoe, but when they desisted from their attempt, he invited them into his house and treated them in the most hospitable manner.

In the summer of 1764, a controversy in regard to jurisdiction arose in Pownal [Vermont] between land claimants under New Hampshire, and others under New York, in which the authority of Esquire Robinson, as a magistrate, seems to have been invoked. Mr. Robinson being at Pownal was, together with Samuel Ashley, a New Hampshire sheriff's deputy, and two other persons, arrested by the

New York sheriff and his assistants, and carried to Albany jail. This collision of officers produced a correspondence between the governors of the two provinces, which appears to have resulted in a sort of compromise, by which Mr. Robinson and those with him were released on moderate or nominal bail, and, though indicted for resisting the New York officers, were never brought to trial.

"In December, 1765, when it was ascertained by the settlers under New Hampshire that their lands were being granted from under them by Lt. Governor Colden, Mr. Robinson was deputed by those of Bennington and the neighboring towns to go to New York for the purpose of trying to persuade him to save their possessions from the grasp of the city speculators; but his efforts were unavailing" (*Vermont History Magazine*, p. 167).

"There being no longer any hope of relief from the government of New York, the claimants under New Hampshire resolved to appeal for redress of their grievances to the conscience of the king. A petition was accordingly prepared, dated November 1766, and signed by over one thousand of the settlers and grantees, asking for relief against the government of the province of New York. Samuel Robinson, Esq., was appointed their agent to repair to England and lay it before His Majesty" (*Early History of Vermont*, p. 85). The full content of this petition is available to read in Chapter IX of the *Early History of Vermont*. The original petition with most of the signatures is preserved in the office of the secretary of state at Montpelier, Vermont.

CAPT. SAMUEL ROBINSON'S MISSION TO THE KING OF ENGLAND

Samuel Robinson sailed on Christmas Day, 1766, from New York City. He was accompanied by William Samuel Johnson, an eminent lawyer and statesman of Connecticut, who was the agent for that colony to the home government. He was employed by the petitioners to assist Mr. Robinson in his mission. After a six weeks' passage, they landed at Falmouth, England, on the 30th of January and reached

New York sheriff and his assistants, and carried to Albany jail. This collision of officers produced a correspondence between the governors of the two provinces, which appears to have resulted in a sort of compromise, by which Mr. Robinson and those with him were released on recognizance or nominal bail, and, though indicted for resisting the New York officers, were never brought to trial.

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London a few days later.

Mr. Robinson was much hindered in his mission by the aristocratic prejudices at the royal court against the republican settlers on the New Hampshire Grants, also by want of money and prestige. Nevertheless he was, though not completely, in a very important degree successful. He seems to have shrewdly discerned the situation, and to have given the settlers at home sound advice as to the wise course for them to pursue under their difficulties. But, most valuable of all, "he so far procured the aid of the crown that Lord Shelburne, on April 11, 1767, addressed a letter to Sir Henry Moore, who had then become governor of the province of New York, forbidding him in the most positive terms from making any more grants of land in the disputed territory, and from molesting any person in possession under a New Hampshire title. And on the 24th of July, 1767, upon a report of the case by the Lords of Trade, a formal order of the king in council was made commanding the Governor of New York 'upon pain of His Majesty's highest displeasure' to make no grants whatever of any part of the controverted lands, 'until His Majesty's further pleasure should be known concerning the same'". (For a copy of the petition sent by the settlers for Mr. Robinson to present to the king, and other documents of the correspondence between the crown and the New York government, and details of Mr. Robinson's efforts, see *Early History of Vermont*, pp. 85-97).

That was not the end of the matter and there were delays and some opposition. In a letter to his family in August 1767, Samuel seemed confident that the whole of the privy council were of opinion that the New Hampshire grantees ought not to be disturbed by New York patents, though they differed in regard to the mode in which a remedy should be furnished. Lord Shelburne, the colonial secretary, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, among others, were active and firm friends and willing to grant speedy relief by the action of the crown; but Lord Northington, the president of the council, who was old, gouty and irritable, and averse to any

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further hearing before that body, insisted that the parties should be left to seek their remedy at law by instituting suits in the New York courts, with perhaps an ultimate appeal to the king in council.

All this seemed likely to prevent the further consideration of the subject for a long period, and Samuel was running out of money to continue his stay in London. He determined to return home, leaving the interests of his constituents in the charge of his assistant, Mr. Johnson. But before he was ready to embark he took the small-pox, from which he died in London on the 27th of October 1767. Whether, had he lived, he would have been able to prosecute his labors, as agent of the settlers, to a complete and successful issue, we cannot be sure. His past success and his sound judgment and skill would seem to have warranted high expectations. His death was felt by the settlers to be a great calamity.

Upon his decease Mr. Johnson wrote a letter of condolence to his widow. This letter shows clearly that Mr. Robinson was high in the esteem of Mr. Johnson and others in London; and, on that account, and as containing interesting particulars, it is inserted here. The original is in the possession of G. W. Robinson. The letter is as follows:

London, Nov. 2, 1767

MADAM: –

It is with the deepest concern and grief that I find myself obliged to communicate to you the sad intelligence of your dear husband's decease. He had enjoyed very good health, since he left America, till at length the misfortune which I always feared for him overtook him. He was seized with the small-pox, which but too generally proves fatal to

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MADAM:—

It is with the deepest concern and grief that I find myself obliged to communicate to you the sad intelligence of your dear husband's decease. He had enjoyed very good health since he left America, till at length the misfortune which I always feared for him overtook him. He was seized with the small-pox, which but too generally proves fatal to

Americans in this climate, and his appeared to be of a bad kind and very severe. Yet he bore up against the distemper, in all its rage, with great fortitude and patience; and, till the twelfth day, we had hopes of his recovery (as the pocks had begun to turn), but the next day it took a sudden and fatal turn, and it appeared that he had not strength of constitution sufficient to throw off the disease; and, on the 27th of October, at half past ten at night, he was no more! Such was the will of God. He was sensible to the last; was calmly resigned to the will of Heaven, and died full of faith. We have, therefore, – which must afford you the greatest consolation, – good reason to believe that he has exchanged this life for a better, and rests in eternal felicity.

He is much lamented by his friends and acquaintances here, who are many. You may rest assured that no attention, care, or expense was spared for his comfort, and to have saved his life, had it been consistent with the designs of Providence. He had two excellent nurses constantly by him. A skilful apothecary saw, and administered to, him every three or four hours. He was visited every day by an eminent physician, and his friends afforded him every consolation in their power. After his death, as the last act of friendship to his memory, I took care to furnish him a decent funeral, at which Gen. Lyman and the other gentlemen here from America attended with me as mourners.

He is interred in the burying-ground belonging to Mr. Whitfield's church, where he usually attended public worship. A club of American merchants and gentlemen, to whom he was known generously contributed eight pounds sterling toward defraying the expenses of his

funeral, etc.; and the remainder, as the accounts come in, – the amount of which I cannot yet determine, – I shall advance, not doubting that it will be, somehow or other, refunded me.

I most sincerely condole with you in this great affliction, and pray God to give you comfort and to sanctify this melancholy event to you and all his family and friends, to whom I beg leave to present my compliments, and am,

Madam, your most obedient
And very humble servant,
William Samuel Johnson.

He was buried in the cemetery connected with the church of his favorite preacher, Reverend George Whitefield, and a monument with an elaborate inscription was erected to his memory in the cemetery at Bennington Centre.

To finish up on the matter of the land disputes between New Yorkers and the "New Hampshire settlers", there is no doubt that a serious obstacle in the way of a speedy and successful prosecution of Samuel Robinson's mission, was the want of monetary means, which from the poverty and scattered situation of the New Hampshire claimants, they were not in a condition to furnish. In his letters to his family, Samuel speaks of "the great expense of living in London," of his being in want of money, and being obliged to borrow; and says, "it is hard to make men believe the truth where there is ready money on the other side."

Mr. Johnson, in a letter dated the next month, after Samuel's death, attributed the failure of complete success principally to this cause. He stated,

the real poverty of those who joined Capt.

> *Robinson, rendered them unable to give the cause that effectual support which was necessary to give it proper weight, and render the application to the crown as regular and respectable as its importance and the usual course of proceedings in cases of this kind justly required. Money has, in fact, been wanting to do justice to this cause. It came here rather in forma pauperis, which is an appearance seldom made or much regarded in this country; and is by no means an eligible light in which to place an affair of this kind.*

Mr. Johnson remained in England as agent for the colony of Connecticut until 1771, and some further applications from the New Hampshire claimants to the crown were made through him, but without important results.

Before he died, Samuel, in one of his letters, gave the best advice in his power in regard to the conduct to be pursued by the settlers, which was:

> *to fulfill the duty required in your grants made by Wentworth that are not yet meddled with by New York, for if Wentworth's charters should not be held good, then the land would be the king's, and he never dispossessed any settlers. And where New York has made grants, give up no possession till they come in course of law, and then apply for a special jury for the trial of each case, and if the request is refused, it will be better for us here to have the application made to both the judges and the governor.*

Governor Moore of New York, in obedience to King George's order in council, ceased at once to make grants of lands within the territory which had been claimed by New Hampshire, and ever afterwards complied with its requirements. This order of the king forbidding in such strong and decided terms the further interference of the

New York government with the New Hampshire charters, inspired additional confidence of the grantees in their titles, and operated to promote the extension of their settlements. On the other hand, it tended greatly to discourage the claimants under the New York patents, and though some of them brought suits in ejectment against the settlers, few, if any, of them were brought to trial, and the occupants remained in quiet possession of their lands during the continuance of Governor Moore's administration, which terminated abruptly by his death on 11 September 1769.

Mr. Johnson's Diary and his Manuscript letters, also Manuscript letters of Samuel Robinson to his family, are primary sources for the above information. Also, there is a Petition of the widow Robinson to Vermont Assembly, October session, 1780. See *Early History of Vermont*, Chapter IX, for a more complete record of Samuel Robinson's Application of the Settlers to the Crown for Relief, and Order in Council in their Favor, 1766-1767.

AN INTERESTING NOTE ABOUT SMALLPOX

Because Samuel Robinson died of smallpox in London, it is of interest that one of his grandsons was a pioneer in the introduction of smallpox vaccination around 1800. Dr. Benjamin Robinson was born in Bennington, Vermont in 1776, about nine years after his grandfather's death in London. Dr. Robinson had advertised in the *Vermont Gazette*, under date of December 17, 1800, that he was "inoculating for the *kine*", or, as it is commonly called, the *cow-pox*; and stated that he had the best European authority for warranting him in publicly declaring, that when a person has once had the *kine-pox*, he is forever infallibly secure against catching the small-pox by any possible exposure.

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He then stated, in some detail, the evidence on which his declaration was founded. In a publication in the *Gazette*, of the 2d of February following, Dr. Robinson, among other proofs of the efficacy of the kine-pox, stated that he had inoculated Russell Haswell, , and Samuel Follett, lads from thirteen to seventeen years of age, with the kine-pox; that after having it, they had entered the pest-house and been inoculated, by Mr. Harwood, with the small-pox, and "were exposed to the contagion of ten or twelve persons in the various stages of the disease," and that "not one of them was in the least degree affected with the pest-house disease."

MARCY LEONARD ROBINSON

EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN AND PILLAR OF FAITH IN BENNINGTON, VERMONT

When living in their log-house, while her husband was still living, but in England, and her children, David and Jonathan and Anna, were with her, the wolves came up at night and tried at the doors and windows to obtain entrance. She knocked upon the door to frighten them from the immediate proximity, then seized firebrands from the fire, opened the door and waved them and shouted with all her strength. The wolves fled away and were no more seen or heard by her.

She is remembered for her great consistency and power of a Christian conversation. The volumes of Hopkins' divinity, which she much read, and many passages of which she marked as worthy of particular attention, are preserved. It is matter of tradition that the Friday prayer-meeting, noted in the early history of this community,

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An extract from a letter respecting her written by her grand-daughter:

> *I suppose my grandmother was quite a business woman. She was accustomed to take one of her sons with her, and ride to Albany on horseback, transact business, make her purchases, and return. I believe she would be gone several days, for she usually attended meetings there.*

An obituary notice of her for the press was preserved; following are extracts from this notice:

> *It was remarkable of the deceased, that her profession of religion, even from early life, was regular, her piety the effect of investigation, and her hope the enlightened offspring of a firmly grounded faith. For the last ten years of her life she was singular for the enlargement of her views, the extension of her liberality of sentiment, and her reading in ancient and modern history, both sacred and profane. She retained her usefulness to the last evening of her life; and the Sabbath previous to her decease she called her children together, took an affectionate leave of them, and gave a succinct account of her own views as to religious concerns, and the reason of her faith. In this remarkably affecting interview, her narration and comments took up nearly two hours.*

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While sitting in church, in revolutionary times, when our mothers had resolved that they would not wear clothing of foreign manufacture, a lady, who sat in the pew forward of her, had a plaid neckerchief which she admired so much, that she determined to get the lease (a technical expression with weavers), and set herself to counting the threads. She felt rebuked, turned away, and fixed her eyes upon the minister; but the handkerchief was still before her, and more potent than her sense of duty; her mind recurred to the counting of the threads to get the lease, until, despite her good resolutions, the threads were counted and the lease obtained; then, after heaving a sigh, she said to herself, but so audibly as to be overheard, "Well, devil, you have had your way this time."

She was in the habit of conversing freely upon the subject of her own decease. Her daughter inquired of her if she had any fear of death; she replied, "I am not afraid to be dead, but I am afraid I shall not honor my Saviour in the hour of death."

She died on the 4th of June, 1795. Her funeral was attended the Sabbath following, – it was sacrament day, – "by the greatest concourse of all since the town was settled" (from the Obituary Notice).

The hymn below was composed by Mr. Anthony Haswell for, and was sung at, her funeral:

She spake, and to her calm reproof
The hardened sinner lent an ear;
Blest were the tenants of her roof,
Taught by her voice the Lord to fear.

She's gone; her pilgrimage is o'er;
She slept and breathed her soul to rest;
Her warning lips shall move no more,

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Her warning lips shall move no more,

Nor pain for sinners heave her breast.

CHILDREN OF SAMUEL & MARCY (LEONARD) ROBINSON (all born at Hardwick, Massachusetts):

1. Elizabeth Robinson, born 24 December 1733.

2. **LEONARD ROBINSON**, b. 16 Jul 1736. He married **Eunice Homes**.

3. Samuel Robinson (III), b. 9 August 1738; died 3 May 1813 at Bennington, Vermont.

* at 17, a member of his father's military company, Col. Ruggles's regiment
* at 18 he was adjutant of the regiment.
* company commander in the Battle of Bennington, rose to rank of colonel.
* overseer of the Tory prisoners, 1777-78
* the first justice of the peace appointed under the authority of Vermont in 1778

4. Moses Robinson, b. 15 March 1741; died 19 May 1813 at Bennington, Ver.

* first Colonel of Militia in Vermont
* first chief justice of the Supreme Court
* Senator in Congress
* second Governor of Vermont, 1789
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6. Silas Robinson, born 17 March 1746; revolutionary soldier

7. Mercy Robinson, born 8 October 1748; married Colonel J. Safford

8. Sarah Robinson, born 13 November 1751; married first Benjamin Fay, and (2d) General H. Swift

9. David Robinson, born 4 November 1754; died 11 December 1843

* while brother Moses was on duty at the Catamount tavern as one of the committee of safety, David and his brothers, Leonard and Silas, were in the Bennington battle, as members of the company that was commanded by their elder brother, Samuel
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* county sheriff 22 years
* U.S. Marshal 8 years
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REFERENCES CONSULTED AND QUOTED

Genealogical History of the Families of Robinsons, Saffords, Harwoods, and Clarks, by Sarah Robinson (Bennington, Vermont, 1837), pp. 5, 6, 11-13.

"Robinson Family, a Historical Sketch", by Jane Robinson (Detroit, MI: 1903). See pp. 1-26 for "William of Newton" and earlier generations.

JMC *Memorials of a century: Embracing a record of individuals and events chiefly in the early history of Bennington, VT and its First Church,* by Isaac Jennings, Pastor of the Church (Orig. pub. Boston: Gould and Lincoln, 1869) p. 204-13, 221-23. Copy available on film at SLC FHL Film 27799.

Vermont History Magazine.

Paige, Hon. Lucius R. *History of Hardwick [Massachusetts]*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1883. See p. 467 and others. At Salt Lake City, Family History Library, Microfilm #14768; 1971 Film #868519 item 1.

Early History of Vermont, by Hiland Hall (Albany, NY: Joel

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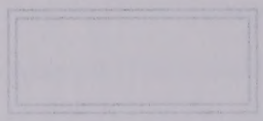

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Munsell, 1868. See p. 467 for Samuel Robinson Jr., and pp. 85-97 for a complete relation of the Bennington settlers' application to the Crown for relief, led by Samuel Robinson Jr.

Bennington Historical Society, Bennington, Vermont.

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RESEARCH STILL TO DO

History of Newton, Mass., by Jackson (Boston, 1880) pg. 401. Confusion on the author (see author S. F. Smith below). See p. 27 of *Robinson Family of the Line of Ebenezer Robinson,* by Jane B. Robinson, Detroit Mich. 1903.

History of Newton, Massachusetts, by S. F. Smith (Boston, MA: 1880) pp. 115, 118, and map; and browse.

LOCAL ADDRESSES

Cambridge Historical Society, 159 Brattle St., 02138
Middlesex County Courthouse, 40 Thorndike St., Cambridge, Mass. 02141
Register of Deeds (northern), 360 Gorham St., Lowell, Mass. 01852.

HOPKINS GATEWAY

HOME PAGE

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HOPKINS GATEWAY

HOME PAGE

Click your Back button to return to the page you just left to get here.

Official Website of the
Hopkins-River and Related Families
This is the Samuel Robinson Family Page

Joann River
West Jordan, Utah

Last Updated - 6 November 2009

This candle was lit on September 11th, 2001, in memory of those who perished at the hands of terrorists.
Keep it burning for our children.

This website was begun on Geocities. This logo was designed by Nanny's Victorian Graphics - no longer on the internet.

Subj: **Our discussion today**
Date: 2/23/2011 10:22:48 P.M. Pacific Standard Time
From:
To:

Hi Robert,

The book about Hiram Harwood (1788-1838) is called "A Tale of New England-The Diaries of Hiram Harwood" by Robert E. Shalhope.

Click Link below.

Below is an 1848 Bennington photo of Hiram's father, Benjamin Harwood, who was the first child born in Bennington. In this picture are other members of my family, including my uncle, Samuel Safford Jr., who at age 16 was in the Bennington Battle and was the first soldier to scale the Tory breastworks. If you purchase the book, as I did, you will see a carved image of Hiram Harwood, as a young man, and that his facial features are so comparable to the image of his father *below*, it is amazing.

Best,
Doug Robinson

Representative Sons of Freedom, five of whom were born at Bennington, New Hampshire Grants, between 1762-1777. On left of seated row appear: cousin Benjamin Harwood, first child born in Bennington, January 2, 1762, died January 22, 1851; Abisha Kingsley, born March 18, 1766, died August 9, 1859; cousin Aaron Robinson, born May 4, 1768, died August 10, 1849; ***uncle Samuel Safford Jr.,*** *born in New London, CT, June 24, 1761, died September 11, 1851, older brother of* ***v. Anna Safford Robinson****. On left of standing row appear: cousin David Robinson, born July 13, 1777, died March l5, 1858; cousin Samuel Fay, born August 16, 1772, died December 25, 1863 (1848 photo From "The Hoosac Valley" (1912))*